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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ending 31st December, 1948

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

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ROCHDALE :
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

DECEMBER, 1948

*Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer,
Medical Superintendent of Corporation Hospitals :*

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :
Tuberculosis Officer :*

ALBERT H. HEYWORTH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer :
(Maternity and Child Welfare)*

ALVA A. FORD, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P.
& S.

Lay Administrative Officer :

S. BUTTERWORTH.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. TURNER, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

A. SYMONS. J. GAWTHORPE.

Meat and Foods Inspector :

J. HAMNETT.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

J. PEARSON. T. J. P. HENDRY.
K. E. SMITH.

Health Visitors (Maternity and Child Welfare) :

J. W. MOSELEY. W. REEVE
S. H. BARLOW. F. THORNTON
A. MILLS.

Health Visitors (Tuberculosis) :

M. L. GALLIMORE. E. M. MOODY.

Ambulance Officer :

E. OSBALDESTON

Assistant School Medical Officers :

NORA MILLS, M.D., D.P.H.
E. P. WHITAKER, M.B., M.R.C.S.

Senior Dental Officer :

H. P. GLEDSDALE, L.D.S.

Dental Officer :

R. J. G. YOUNG, L.D.S.

Dental Attendants :

G. PETRIE. V. M. BROWN.
J. M. COCKCROFT.

Day-time Nursery :

Matron—E. RANKIN, S.R.N., S.R.F.N.

Mental Health Service :

W. BEELEY—Duly Authorised Officer
W. KERSHAW do.
HILDA COATES—Social Worker
JOAN R. LAMBERT do.

Municipal Midwives :

W. U. CARR. K. E. HAZELDINE.
G. CUSHEN. H. HERNON.
G. DOWD. W. HOLT.
M. C. GROARKE. H. O. MITCHELL.
M. L. HARRISON. K. WHELAN

Social Worker :

Mrs. E. H. WINTER

PART TIME OFFICERS

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist :

K. A. EVANS, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.R.C.O.G.

E.N.T. Surgeon :

V. T. SMITH, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeons :

PHILIP HARRY, M.D., D.P.H.
R. STEWART SCOTT, M.B., CH.B., D.O.M.S.

Child Welfare Medical Officer :

MURIEL KNOX, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Venereal Diseases Medical Officer :

HELEN E. SMITH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Pathologist :

J. E. HORROCKS, M.B., CH.B.

Public Analyst :

S. E. MELLING, F.I.C.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the County Borough of Rochdale.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health conditions in the County Borough of Rochdale and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1948.

The first portion of this Report is as usual statistical in character. The points to be noted in this section are the increased estimate by the Registrar General of the civilian **population** with an increase of exactly 2,000 persons as compared with 1947, but a decrease in the number of live births and, therefore, in the birth rate for the year.

The number of deaths and the death rate are both decreased as compared with last year. The **infantile mortality rate** recorded is the lowest ever recorded in Rochdale and is approximately one quarter of the rates occurring at the beginning of the century. It is also well worth noting that for the first time no death from **Maternity Causes** has been recorded in Rochdale. This is particularly remarkable in view of the town's previous bad record.

Infectious diseases showed a slight increase over the previous year mainly due to Measles and Scarlet Fever. The record low figure of **Diphtheria** is worthy of note.

The period covered by this year's Annual Report divides itself into two sections, up to the 4th July and from the 5th July onwards. On the latter date with the coming into operation of the **National Health Service Act, 1946**, the Local Health Authority ceased to have any responsibility for hospitals and treatment clinics. In actual fact there was no such sudden cleavage, but a gradual transition from one phase to the other.

During the earlier part of the year arrangements were in progress for the smooth handing over of services to the Hospital Management Committee and in the second part of the year the Health Committee continued under agency arrangements to be responsible for the transferred services until the Hospital Management Committee was in a position to take over completely.

At the same time it must be remembered that certain functions of the Health Department remained quite unaltered throughout the year while, on the other hand, by the end of the year new services were in process of development.

It is proposed, therefore, on this occasion to introduce at the beginning of each section of the Report a short paragraph indicating the main effects of the National Health Service Act and the main outlines of the Local Health Authority's proposals under the sections where these are appropriate. With regard to proposals under the heading of Health Centres it is sufficient to say that both consideration and action were postponed upon advice from the Ministry of Health.

By the end of the year approval had been obtained from the Ministry of Health to all Rochdale's proposals under the various sections.

The **Rochdale Corporation Act, 1948**, received Royal Assent in July. Sections of this Act, where the powers of the Council are to be exercised by the Health Committee, began to come into operation on the 1st December, 1948.

The sections on Child Minding referred to last year were not included in the local Act in view of the fact that Parliament in the meantime had passed the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948, embodying similar powers for the Country to those sought by Rochdale.

As the last stages of the plans for improvement of the Hospital Services before handing over, we dealt with the preparation of Foxholes House as a Preliminary Training School for Nurses, the erection of new residential accommodation for medical staff at Birch Hill and complete electrical re-wiring at Marland Hospital.

The necessary continuity between old and new administration was also provided for by the adequate representation of the Health Committee upon the Hospital Management Committee and upon the Local Executive Council dealing with domiciliary medical care.

On the other hand, the development of new services together with the shedding of old responsibilities called for re-organisation of our own Committee set-up. This was provided by arranging for three main Sub-Committees, namely (a) Sanitary, (b) Accounts and Staffing, and (c) Domiciliary Services Sub-Committees, to report to the Health Committee, which itself deals with all other matters including, for the time being, Mental Health Services.

In the early stages of the year considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining adequate staff for the Domestic Help Scheme. By a process of re-organisation and by the adoption of new rates of pay these difficulties were overcome, and by the end of the year satisfactory staffing was established on a more permanent basis. By this time, however, it was noticed that the Scheme was becoming more and more popular and the staff had gradually to be increased to meet the demands.

In the last Report mention was made of the commencement of an arrangement entered into with the Manchester Diocesan Council for **Moral Welfare Work**, by which Rochdale was to obtain part-time service of one of their Social Workers to deal with the problems concerning the unmarried mother and her illegitimate child. Following a review of this work in October it was decided to extend the arrangements to include a full-time worker for the Rochdale area, in respect of whose work the Local Health Authority should accept responsibility for 4/5ths salary and expenses.

In the **Ambulance Service** by the end of the year arrangements were complete for transferring to the new garage in Drake Street, which transfer was in fact carried out on the 10th January, 1949. The arrangements there should be much more satisfactory following such adaptations as may be proved by experience to be necessary. By the end of the year two new ambulances had been delivered, putting the fleet on a much more efficient basis. It is interesting to note that whereas in the early half of the year the ambulance journeys averaged between 450 and 500 per month, by the end of the year in a free Ambulance Service these had passed the 900 mark per month.

It having been decided that the Corporation would carry out its new duties with regard to **Home Nursing** through the agency of the Rochdale and District Home Nursing Association, there was little change in this service following the 5th July, except with regard to the method of financing by the Corporation and in the closer links between the two bodies by representation on the two sides.

Serious difficulties were met during the year in maintaining anything approaching an adequate staff of **Health Visitors**. It was, therefore, decided at the end of the year to embark upon a scheme for the appointment of Student Health Visitors whose training would be assisted by the Corporation and in return for which they would give a guaranteed period of service to Rochdale.

So far as the Prevention of Illness—Care and After-care, is concerned, the only new developments were the completion of a Diphtheria Immunisation Code Card System to form the basis of future Immunisation work and the commencement of arrangements for **Convalescent Home** accommodation for cases not the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

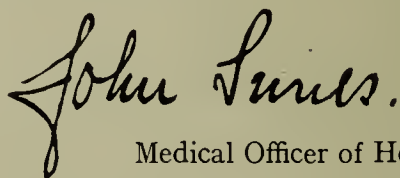
A considerable amount of staff re-organisation took place during the year. Changes occurred in the personnel of the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Staff, including the resignation of Dr. Valentine as a part-time Officer, having held this position since 1920. A Meat and Dairies Inspector was appointed in succession to Mr. S. Hennings. Mr. Hutchinson, Lay Administrative Officer, left in June, after three years service in the Department and was replaced by Mr. S. Butterworth, and four members of the staff were transferred to the Hospital Management Committee central staff. In addition, Dr. A. H. Heyworth who had been with the Department as Tuberculosis Officer since 1932, and later as Deputy Medical Officer of Health, became transferrable to the Regional Hospital Board and was succeeded as Deputy by Dr. Nora Mills, Assistant Schools Medical Officer.

I take particular pleasure this year in acknowledging the loyalty and enthusiasm shown by the staff of this Department during a time of so many changes, bordering sometimes on confusion and of not a few uncertainties. In the same manner I have to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Health Committee for your patient consideration of the many schemes which have had to be put before you in addition to the routine work of the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1948.

Area (in acres)	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Civilian Population, mid-year 1948	88,110
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	25,487
Number of Houses on Corporation Estates (December, 1948) ...	4,478
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,160
Rateable Value	£552,153
Estimated expenditure on Health Services provided for by rates ...	£61,103

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births —Legitimate	1,405 ...	748 ...	657
Illegitimate	95 ...	54 ...	41
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>698</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 17.0

Still-births 50—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births... 32

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	1,245 ...	614 ...	631
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population			14.1

Deaths from Maternal Causes 0.

Puerperal Sepsis	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	0
Other Maternal Causes		

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age (57 deaths).

All infants per 1,000 live births	38
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	63

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of population
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	4	0.05
Cancer	184	2.09
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	49	0.56

VITAL STATISTICS,

Population.

The Census Return of April, 1931, gave the population as 90,278 and in June, 1938, the Registrar General's estimate was 91,290.

The figure of 88,110 is given by the Registrar General as the estimate of the civilian population at mid-year 1948, as compared with the figure of 86,110 for 1947.

Live Births.

1,500 live births (males 802, females 698) were registered as compared with 1,725 in 1947 and an average of 1,268 for the ten years 1938-1947.

The live birth-rate was equal to 17.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with the figure of 20.0 in the previous year and 17.8 in 1946. The average birth-rate for the ten years 1938-1947 was 14.9 per 1,000.

The 95 births registered as illegitimate accounted for 6.3% of the total births, as compared with 6.6% in 1947 and an average of 7.6% during the previous five years.

Still Births.

50 were registered as compared with 51 in 1947, and an average of 46 in the previous five years.

Deaths.

The deaths registered show a decrease with 1,245 (males 614, females 631) as against 1,399 in the year 1947 and 1,272 in 1946.

The death-rate from all causes was 14.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 16.2 in 1947, and an average of 15.5 during the ten years 1938-1947.

The chief causes of death are given in comparison with the previous year.

	Year 1947	Year 1948
Influenza	8	2
Tuberculosis	50	49
Cancer... ..	200	184
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	175	154
Heart Disease	300	334
Other Circulatory Diseases	126	108
Bronchitis	106	94
Pneumonia (all forms)	45	24
Nephritis	34	24
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc.	58	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	1,102	1,010
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Percentage of total deaths	78.7	81

Table I Appendix shows comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years, while Table II Appendix shows the age and sex distribution, and causes of deaths in 1948.

More important than these total figures and rates are the following facts set out in tabular form :—

Percentage of Deaths in Year Groups, distributed according to age at Death.

Age Group	1911	1921	1931	1941	1948
Under 15 years	31	20	11	8	6
15—45 years	17	15	13	11	7
45—65 years	26	30	32	27	26
65 years and over	25	34	44	53	61

Infant Mortality.

There were 57 deaths registered under one year of age, equal to a rate of 38 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with 95 deaths and a rate of 55 last year. This is the lowest rate ever recorded in Rochdale.

This decrease is mainly accounted for by deaths due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis (4 compared with 11) ; Congenital Debility, Malformation and Birth Injury (17 compared with 27) ; and Prematurity (18 compared with 28).

The average for the ten years 1938—1947 was 59 per 1,000 live births. The Table given below shows the comparative figures for the previous ten years :—

Year	Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Year	Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births
1938	69	63	1943	58	46
1939	55	55	1944	67	50
1940	96	89	1945	56	44
1941	76	67	1946	75	49
1942	90	71	1947	95	55

Comparative Mortality and Birth-rates.

	Death-rate All Causes per 1,000 of population	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
ROCHDALE	14.1	17.0	38
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	11.6	20.0	39
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000)	10.7	19.2	32
ENGLAND AND WALES	10.8	17.9	34

These provisional figures are corrected only for transfer and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

Infectious Diseases.

The principal infectious diseases (excluding influenza) caused 8 deaths, compared with 17 last year.

						Year 1947	Year 1948
						<hr/>	<hr/>
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	12	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
						<hr/>	<hr/>
					TOTAL	17	8
						<hr/>	<hr/>

Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases caused 139 deaths as compared with 166 in 1947. Pneumonia caused 24 deaths (45), Bronchitis 94 deaths (106) and other respiratory affections 21 deaths (15).

The average number of deaths from these diseases in the 5 years 1943-1947 was 172.

Cancer.

The arrangement with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of Cancer was continued up to the 5th July.

Deaths classified to this cause and shown in age groups below numbered 184 (males 84, females 100) as against 200 the previous year :—

		Total Deaths	under 15 yrs.	15—45 years	45—65 years	65 yrs. and over
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Year 1948	...	184	2	11	75	96
Year 1947	...	200	1	13	70	116

The death-rate was 2.09 per 1,000 as against 2.32 per 1,000 of the estimated population for the previous year.

No special investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease.

Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief at the 3rd July, 1948, and at the 27th December, 1947, has been kindly supplied by the Director of Social Welfare :—

	1948 Week ending 3-7-48	1947 Week ending 27-12-47
No. of persons in receipt of Institutional Relief (excluding cases in Mental Hospitals)	292	276
No. of persons relieved (excluding non-resident persons and vagrants) ...	638	573
Amount of Out Relief granted	£434 2 0	£396 10 0

It is to be noted that since this type of assistance was entirely superseded by the coming into operation of the National Assistance Act on the 5th July, these figures will not appear in future Annual Reports.

Unemployment.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Rochdale Employment Exchange for information regarding the state of unemployment in Rochdale and the adjoining district of Wardle during 1948. Figures for Rochdale only are not available.

The average number of unemployed persons on the register during the year ended 31st December, 1948, was as follows :—Men 162, Women 32, and Juveniles 12, making a total of 206 persons. The corresponding figures in 1947 were Men 219, Women 32 and Juveniles 10. Total 259.

I am also informed that at the middle of 1948 there were approximately 55,492 insured persons (31,293 men, 21,231 women and 2,968 juveniles) but I am asked to state that this figure does not include those persons who by reason of age, type or class of employment, or part-time capacity, are exempted from the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

A major change in the general picture of employment in Rochdale occurred by reason of the introduction of some European Volunteer Workers, males and females. These persons were mainly Polish and Lithuanian in origin and found employment in the cotton mills.

General Provision of Health Services.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

The hours of clinic sessions and the situation of centres are as shown :—

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
I.—Maternity & Child Welfare					
(A) St. Luke's School, Deeplish	10—12 noon 2—4 p.m.	—	—	—	—
(B) St. Clement's School Spotland Bridge ...	—	10—12 noon 2—4 p.m.	—	—	—
(c) Council Offices, Norden	—	—	—	2—4 p.m.	—
(D) Baillie St. Council School.....	—	—	2—4 p.m.	2—4 p.m.	10—12 a.m.
(E) Castleton Wesleyan School, Essex Street	—	—	—	—	10—12 a.m. 2—4 p.m.
(F) Ante Natal (Baillie St. Council School)	10 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	5-30 to 7-0 p.m.	10 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	10 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	—
(G) Post Natal (Baillie St. Council School)	—	—	—	—	2-30—4 p.m.
II.—Municipal Clinic					
Baillie Street					
(A) Tuberculosis Dispen. Entrance : 24 Baillie St.	—	5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.	2—4 p.m.	—	9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.
(B) Venereal Diseases Clinic—					
Male	5-30 to 7-30 p.m.	3-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.	—	5—7 p.m.	—
Entrance : 20 Baillie Street					
Female ...	—	10-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.	—	—
Entrance : 2 Alfred Street ...					
III.—Clinics Provided by the Education Committee—					
(A) Inspection Clinics ...	9—12 noon	—	2—5 p.m.	—	9—12 noon
(B) Treatment Clinics...	Daily 9—10-30 a.m.				
(c) Eye Clinic	Specialist	Clinics by arrangement			
(D) E.N.T. Clinic.....					

The work in connection with the Corporation Clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections in this Report.

The responsibility for maintenance of Child Welfare Clinics remains with the Local Health Authority as does that of the routine Ante-natal Clinics, whereas the Specialist Ante-natal Clinics, Post-natal Clinic, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Clinics, become the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board as from the 5th July. Under the agency arrangements little difference was apparent at the end of the year.

Home Nursing.

The arrangements described in previous Reports continued between the Health Committee and the District Nursing Association until the 5th July. As from that date Home Nursing became the responsibility of the Local Health Authority in respect of all forms of illness requiring nursing in the home.

The Association's Report for the year shows that they nursed a total of 1,531 patients to whom 55,760 visits were paid. The following is a summary of the work done during the year :—

Patients on the books 1st January, 1948	245
Patients during the year	1,286
Total nursed	1,531
Total discharged	1,274
Remaining on books 31st December, 1948	257

Convalescent	756
Removed to Hospital		172
Relieved	93
Died	253

Included in the above figures are the following notifiable diseases patients :—

							Patients	Visits
							<hr/>	<hr/>
Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	193
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	44
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Infantile Paralysis		...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia...		...	...	...	...	...	7	123
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	961
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	348
							<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	77	1,672
							<hr/>	<hr/>
Maternity Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	126
Children under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	129	1,642

At the end of the year the nursing staff of the Association consisted of the Superintendent, two Assistant Superintendents, two fully trained District Nurses and two candidates under training, one Male Nurse and one Male candidate under training.

It is to be noted that the Association's Headquarters at Sparrow Hill are designated as a "Key Training Centre" by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and receive candidates from the Institute and from other sources.

Ambulance Service.

Under the National Health Service Act, operation of the Ambulance Services remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities, i.e. County Councils and County Boroughs.

So far as Rochdale is concerned, therefore, the position remained largely unchanged on the 5th July, except that as from that date the Ambulance Service became free of charge to the public. At the same time it must be noted that the responsibility of providing this free Ambulance Service rests upon the Authority in whose area the need for service arises. Thus it is Rochdale's responsibility to remove by ambulance all Rochdale residents requiring an ambulance for admission to hospital or any other purpose, wherever that hospital may be situated. This may necessitate part of the journey being accomplished by rail. On the other hand, it is not the responsibility of Rochdale to bring Rochdale residents home from hospital unless the hospital is actually situated within the Rochdale County Borough. For instance, it is Rochdale's responsibility to take Rochdale residents to Birch Hill Hospital which is situated in the County area, but it is the County's responsibility to bring the patient home if an ambulance is still required.

At the end of the year the Corporation was still running an Ambulance Service on behalf of the Lancashire County Council for Whitworth, Milnrow, and Newhey. At the end of the year arrangements were complete for transfer of the Ambulance Headquarters from the temporary quarters at Smith Street Old Baths to new premises in Drake Street. Satisfactory progress was made with the establishment of a fleet of up-to-date vehicles, two new 26 h.p. Humber ambulances being delivered, whilst another 16 h.p. Austin ambulance was in the process of fitting out.

The Ambulance Depot continues to provide a day and night service to deal with accident calls and removals to and from hospitals, with a personnel establishment of 1 Ambulance Officer, 22 Drivers and Attendants, and 3 Telephonists.

During the year 7,242 ambulance journeys involving a mileage of 43,223 miles, were run, being 712 journeys on account of accidents in the streets, works, etc., and 6,530 other journeys. Of the total journeys shown, 6,107 were in respect of Borough patients and 1,135 for Out-Borough patients.

By arrangement with the Rochdale Transport Department car transport is maintained at the Ambulance Depot for the Municipal Midwifery Service. At mid-year this service was increased to two cars. During 1948 a total of 6,738 journeys (27,281 miles) was so made. In addition, 1,896 other journeys involving 9,090 miles were made. These vehicles are driven by the Ambulance personnel.

In connection with the Municipal Car Hire Service operated by the Rochdale Transport Department, the arrangement has been continued for a Night Car Service to convey relatives of patients called in emergency to Birch Hill Hospital or the Rochdale Infirmary at times when normal transport facilities are not available. The number of persons conveyed during 1948 was 154.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Laboratory in the grounds of Birch Hill Hospital undertakes all Bacteriological and Bio-chemical work for this and other Corporation Departments and is available for outside bodies when required.

The following table shows the work done by the Laboratory :—

Sent By	Specimens		Unit Value	
	1947	1948	1947	1948
Public Health Office, including Swabs etc. from Practitioners	580	503	2442	2056
Maternity and Child Welfare	1280	1489	1457	3772
Tuberculosis Dispensary	263	352	546	762
School Medical Service	36	23	112	66
Marland Hospital	548	486	1732	1604
Springfield Sanatorium	385	444	844	1564
Birch Hill Hospital	7624	7010	37996	33974
Private	375	424	1417	1478
Others	423	285	2535	1953
TOTAL	11514	11016	49081	47229

In April Dr. J. E. Horrocks succeeded Dr. C. H. Adderley as the Pathologist in charge. Besides working in close collaboration with the Medical Officers of the hospitals and clinics, Dr. Horrocks is always available for consultant purposes.

Public Health Laboratory work continues to be undertaken at this Laboratory on behalf of the Health Committee.

The bacteriological examination of water and of milk is included in the work of the above Laboratory, while chemical analysis of water is carried out by the Public Analyst :—

Milk—for Tubercle Bacilli (Animal Inoculation)	11	Samples
for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and Reductase Test	74	„
Water—for Bacterial Count	6	„

(b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In addition to the examinations included in the work of the above Laboratory, 1,115 specimens from persons suspected of suffering from venereal diseases were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and 712 specimens were examined by the Medical Officers of the treatment centre.

(c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Acts are examined by the Borough Analyst. Details of these examinations are shown on Page 46.

Hospitals.

The hospital services in the district provide 1,034 beds for patients, as shown below :—

Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical	...	417	beds
do. Maternity	... ..	58	„
Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc....		150	„
Marland Hospital—Infectious Diseases	... ..	120	„
Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (females)...	... ..	40	„
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (males)	... ..	55	„
Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical)	... ..	110	„
The Memorial Home—Orthopaedic	... ..	50	„
The Law Nursing Home	... ..	34	„

Corporation Hospitals.

The General Hospital at Birch Hill, the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Marland and the Pulmonary Hospital at Springfield Sanatorium all ceased to be the responsibility of the Local Health Authority on the 5th July, and became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

Under agency arrangements, however, these three hospitals were administered by the Health Committee until towards the end of the year when the administration gradually passed into the hands of the Hospital Management Committee of the Regional Hospital Board.

It is not thought necessary, therefore, to include in this Report any statistical information about the work of the General Hospital, and in respect of the other two hospitals only such information as shows their part in the control of infectious diseases and tuberculosis in the Borough.

Birch Hill Hospital.

During the year 3,462 patients were admitted to the hospital excluding 993 infants born in the hospital, in comparison with 4,033 admissions and 996 live births in 1947.

In April the erection of the new residence for medical staff was commenced. It is likely that this will be available for occupation about the middle of 1949.

The Ministry of Health approval having been finally received in respect of the adaptation of Foxholes as a Preliminary Training School, the necessary work was commenced in June.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

At the end of the year there was one dwelling house registered as a Maternity Home and one as a Nursing Home for medical and surgical cases :—

78 Louise Street—three patients—Maternity ;

183 Drake Street—eight patients—Medical and Surgical ;

These Homes were visited during the year by the Medical Officer and were reported upon as satisfactory.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Notification of Births—Public Health Act, 1936.

There were 1,472 births notified as belonging to Rochdale—1,467 by midwives and 5 by doctors. These figures include 785 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

Health Visitors.

The scope of the Health Visitors' work is increased by the National Health Service Act to include not only general care of young children and expectant or nursing mothers, but also to give advice to persons suffering from illness and to assist in preventing the spread of infection.

It has not been possible so far to develop this side of the Health Visitors' work because we have not been able to maintain the staff at the normal strength much less to increase it to eight Health Visitors, as envisaged in the proposals to the Ministry of Health.

At the end of the year the staff consisted of four full-time Health Visitors, together with one performing part-time duties.

This reduction in the number of Health Visitors has had an adverse effect on the amount of Home Visiting which could be accomplished and this in turn is reflected in fewer attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres.

The Health Visitors have made a total of 10,262 visits mainly to children under five (8,189 visits) and to expectant mothers (154 visits). The Health Visitors are also in regular attendance at the Welfare Centres, Nursery Schools and Day Nursery.

Classification of visits made by Health Visitors :—

Primary visits to births	...	...	...	...	1,416
Primary visits re still-births	...	...	...	...	35
Subsequent visits to infants under 1	...	...	...	...	1,953
Subsequent visits to infants and young children—1—2	...	...	...	...	...
years	...	...	...	...	1,757
Subsequent visits to young children—2—5 years	...	...	...	...	3,028
Ante-natal cases	...	...	...	...	154
Daily guardians...	...	...	...	...	203
Visits under Children and Adoption Acts	...	...	...	...	48
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	46
Infectious Diseases (Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...
Neonatorum)	...	...	...	...	32
Castleton Day Nursery	...	...	...	...	91
Follow-up survey	...	...	...	...	5
Unsuccessful visits	...	...	...	...	1,330
Medical and Midwifery Fees; Home and Domestic	...	...	...	...	...
Helps	...	...	...	...	147
Complaints	...	...	...	...	17
					<u>10,262</u>

Infant Welfare Centres.

The five centres in different parts of the town have continued with their nine weekly sessions. Since November, 1948, the Medical Officer attends at Baillie Street and at Castleton on alternate weeks. This enables Castleton to have two morning sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance during the month. This has proved a great convenience to the mothers and there has been a slight increase in the attendances at Castleton since this scheme was brought into force.

The following Table shows that the decrease in attendance is mainly accounted for in the under one group and the 2—5 year old group.

Centre	New Cases admitted during 1948	Total Attendances of Children			Average Attendance per Clinic Session	No. of Medical examinations by M.O.
		under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.		
(a) Baillie Street * (Wardleworth)	169	2,942	885	345	† 42 (53)	1,109
(b)*St. Luke's ...	240	3,850	1,128	436	55 (76)	1,251
(c)*St. Clement's ...	177	3,310	1,380	821	54 (74)	1,342
(d) Baillie Street *(Castleton) ...	172	2,914	761	327	41 (55)	1,007
(e) *Castleton ...	137	2,728	753	744	42 (43)	736
(f) Norden ...	55	689	399	226	25 (32)	339
Totals ...	950	16,433	5,306	2,899	—	5,784
Corresponding Figures 1947 ...	1,277	21,667	5,218	4,151	—	7,928

* Two Clinic Sessions per week. † Figures in brackets are for 1947.

The Medical Officers' examinations decreased correspondingly from 7,928 to 5,784. The number of children who attended for the first time and who at the date of their first visits were under one year of age was 891 or 60% of the notified live births, as against 68% in 1947.

It is considered that the main reason for these decreases is the reduction in the staff of Health Visitors. On the other hand, it must also be remembered that the number of births is considerably reduced as compared with last year. Last year's attendances were very much increased as compared with 1946 and this year's attendances approximate much more closely to 1946 figures.

Another factor which must be taken into account is the growth of Nurseries in factories and mills in the town. At the end of the year there were 305 children under five accommodated at 7 Nurseries, as compared with 146 children under five accommodated at 3 Nurseries at the end of 1947.

During the year there have been a few cases of Measles and Whooping Cough amongst the infants attending the Clinics, but on the whole, the general standard of well-being has been maintained.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the School Medical Services Clinic with which close liaison continued for such things as regular dressings, dental treatment and for conditions of the Ear, Nose and Throat and Eyes.

The members of the Ladies Executive Committee and co-opted voluntary helpers have continued to render very valuable and pleasant assistance.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Children suffering or suspected of suffering from Orthopaedic and postural defects continued to be sent to the Smith Street Clinic maintained by the Cripple Children's Union.

The Department is very grateful to Dr. Bateman and to Miss Hoyle for much helpful advice, as well as for actual treatment carried out. There is also cause for thankfulness that these arrangements are still being continued under the Hospital Management Committee's direction.

Fewer cases have been referred for Ultra Violet Ray treatment this year. It is thought that where a child is receiving this treatment on general grounds, viz. "delicate", "nutrition 'C'", "debility", etc., the benefit is largely outweighed by the inconvenience involved.

Other Clinics.

Full use has been made of the ready services of Dr. Heyworth in the examination of children with any family history or suspicion of Tuberculosis.

At the request of Dr. Evans, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, all mothers attending for the first time with a baby are strongly urged to attend the Post-natal Clinic.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Christie Hospital staff who undertake treatment of our Haemangiomata and similar conditions. These cases appear to be on the increase.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The work of this Society has again been found to be of great value and the Department acknowledges the assistance given by the Society's Local Inspector, Mr. Mitchell. Further detail of this work will be found in the School Medical Report.

Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.

Now that the National Welfare Foods Scheme has become well established, the demand upon the Local Health Authority for the distribution of milk and food preparations is very much reduced and is largely confined to special cases.

Closest contact is maintained between the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics Services and the Welfare Foods Office. The Clinics are utilised as distribution centres with staff allocated from the Welfare Foods Office.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In 1947, 835 children under five received a course of immunisation and in 1948 the number immunised in this group was 966.

An increasing awareness of the value of Diphtheria immunisation is becoming apparent and children are being brought at an earlier age, many at the age of six months.

Further mention is made of the scheme in the sections dealing with Infectious Diseases and School Medical Services.

Immunisation against Pertussis is also becoming increasingly the subject of enquiry, almost embarrassingly so, in spite of the guarded prognosis given as to the effects.

It is obvious that further consideration will have to be given in the near future to the best methods of satisfying these enquiries.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.

There continued to be six clinic sessions held each week for the above purposes—four Ante-natal Clinics at Baillie Street Council School and one at Birch Hill Maternity Home, while one Post-natal Clinic is held at Baillie Street School.

The final arrangements for these clinics had not been agreed at the end of the year. The clinic held at Birch Hill is no longer the responsibility of the Local Authority since it is held in hospital premises and in any case, as the accompanying Table shows, it does not deal with the cases from the County Borough area.

It appears probable that there will be a distinction drawn between routine Ante-natal Clinics which will remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority in all respects and Specialist Clinics for which the Local Authority may have to carry out its responsibility through the personnel of the Regional Hospital Board.

The number of women attending these clinics is set out in the following summary.

		Rochdale Borough		County Districts		Total	
		1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
(1) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS							
(a) No. of Expectant Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	930	911	116	139	1,046	1,050
	Birch Hill	—	—	130	112	130	112
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	5,721	5,816	745	803	6,466	6,619
	Birch Hill	—	—	785	787	785	787
(c) Average attendances per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	23.2	24.0	3.0	3.3	26.2	27.3
	Birch Hill	—	—	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1
(2) POST-NATAL CLINIC							
(a) No. of Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	235	291	26	49	261	340
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	292	327	31	55	323	382
(c) Average attendance per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	6.3	6.6	0.7	1.1	7.0	7.7

The 911 Rochdale patients who attended for the first time at the Ante-natal Clinics during the year represented 60% of the total notified live-births and still-births in this Borough, as compared with 52% in the previous year. In following up these patients the Health Visitors paid 154 home visits.

Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the X-ray Department at Birch Hill Hospital are available to patients from the Ante-natal Clinics as are also the services of the Laboratory.

In particular the Laboratory staff attends certain Ante-natal Clinics in order to perform complete blood counts on new cases. During the year 1,472 counts were carried out.

Consultant Services.

The whole of the midwifery services, both in the home and the clinics, including Post-natal Clinics, continued to be under the supervision of Dr. K. A. Evans, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

Emergency Maternity Unit.

The unit is available at short notice night and day for service within the Borough or adjoining County Districts (Tel. No. 8294, Birch Hill Hospital). This service was called upon twice during the year.

Maternity Home.

There were 1,033 maternity cases admitted to Birch Hill Maternity Home, 831 from Rochdale and 202 from surrounding districts, as against 1,040 in 1947 and 1,328 in 1946. The actual number of women confined was 1,014 of which 819 were Rochdale, 188 Lancashire County Area and 7 from other districts.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

The responsibility for maintaining an adequate Domiciliary Midwifery Service remains with the Local Health Authority. No modification of the scheme in Rochdale has, therefore, been necessary, except that the cost of the Service is no longer reclaimed, either in whole or in part from the mothers concerned.

Midwives.

14 midwives gave notice during the year of intention to practice in this Borough, 10 of whom were engaged as Municipal Midwives, while the remaining four were engaged in private practice. Comparative figures of the year's district midwifery work by Municipal Midwives are given in the following table:—

	Year 1948	Year 1947
Cases attended—as Midwife	610	792
as Maternity Nurse...	50	60
Visits during laying-in period—		
as Midwife	9,542	12,022
as Maternity Nurse	344	399
Ante-natal (Home Visits)	2,043	2,085
Miscellaneous Visits—Ante-natal Clinic, etc.	243	129

The four midwives in private practice attended 67 cases as midwives during the past year and none as maternity nurses.

During the year the staff of Municipal Midwives was brought up to full establishment of ten. This, together with the fact that the number of births has decreased as compared with the previous two years, has enabled the full Rushcliffe Conditions to be applied to midwives, particularly in respect of off-duty time.

A car service is operated from the Ambulance Depot in connection with the Municipal Midwifery Service and these cars are also used for the transport of Gas and Air Analgesia equipment, as required by the midwives. Nine of the midwives on the staff are now qualified to administer Analgesia and since the 5th July, 85 women have been given this form of relief from pain.

Medical Assistance.

Midwives practising in the District requested the services of a medical practitioner in 204 maternity cases and in 56 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 312 and 48 respectively.

During 1947 medical fees were paid in whole or part by the Local Authority in 19 cases, amounting in aggregate to £35. During the first half of the current year the corresponding figures were 10 cases and £25 11s. 9d.

Since the 5th July, the Local Health Authority is responsible for paying the medical fees only where the general practitioner is not already called upon to give these services to the patient under the terms of his contract with the Local Executive Council. In this period the number of cases concerned was 47 involving an expenditure of £147.

Midwifery Fees.

Up to the 4th July, the Local Authority had reclaimed Midwifery Fees in all cases attended by Municipal Midwives, with the exception of 23 cases where an allowance of the whole or part of the fees was made according to the family circumstances. As already stated, all cases in future are free of cost to the individual.

Maternity Outfits.

No loans of Maternity Outfits for confinement at home were made during the year. Sterilised accouchement outfits may be obtained at the Child Welfare Centre free of cost.

Dental Service.

It had not been found practicable by the end of the year to make new or more complete arrangements for the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under the age of five years. The arrangements between the Health and Education Departments for the services of school dental staff in this direction were continued, but this only resulted in the dental treatment of 6 expectant and nursing mothers and 23 children under 5 years.

The Local Authority found it impossible to maintain its dental staff, i.e. School Dental Officers, at full strength during the year and the dental surgeons in private practice were far too busy to entertain any suggestions for part-time employment by the Local Authority.

Discussions were still being held with the Local Executive Council at the end of the year in order to evolve a more complete scheme, but it seems unlikely that these discussions will produce a successful scheme for some time.

In respect to children under five, the Local Health Authority is responsible only for those who are not attending primary schools maintained by the Local Education Authority. In Rochdale a very large number of children do, in fact, attend primary schools under the age of five (815), and of these 436 received dental attention during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were reported, three of whom were removed to Marland Hospital for treatment. All of them made a satisfactory recovery. During the previous year five cases were reported.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths recorded during the year. The figures for 1947 were four deaths with a maternal mortality rate of 2.25 per 1,000 total live and still-births, and 1946 figures were three deaths with a mortality rate of 1.90.

In 1939 and again in 1944 only one maternal death was registered in Rochdale, but this is the first occasion in which there has not been a single death during the year. These figures are all the more remarkable in respect of an industrial town which in only comparatively recent years had an unenviable reputation for high maternal mortality rates.

This year's experience may be purely a happy incident. On the other hand, there are grounds for feeling that Puerperal Sepsis as a cause of death has been largely eliminated by the availability of modern drugs, namely Penicillin and the Sulphonamides. The elimination of this group of maternal deaths would in the last ten years have reduced the total deaths from 42 to 30. Those maternal deaths falling outside this sepsis group are due to such a variety of causes and factors that no such claims in respect of these can be maintained. It must, nevertheless, be emphasised that whatever the underlying cause of illness during pregnancy, or difficulty or danger occurring at the confinement, successful treatment must depend upon early recognition, which in many cases means early and full co-operation on the part of the patient.

The following figures show the Maternity Mortality rates per 1,000 live and still-births in other towns as compared with Rochdale.

AREA	1948	1947	Average 5 years 1942-46
ROCHDALE	—	2.25	2.96
Average 12 neighbouring manufacturing towns ...	1.18	1.09	2.35
Administrative County of Lancaster	1.06	1.35	2.24
England and Wales	1.02	1.17	1.89

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Four cases were reported during 1948, as against three in 1947 and none in 1946. No case showed impairment of vision.

Child Life Protection.

Since the 5th July, the duties relating to Child Life Protection, as provided for by the Public Health Act, 1936, are transferred to the Children's Committee and are now carried out by the Children's Officer.

The Health Visitors acting as Infant Life Protection Officers made 10 visits in this connection prior to the 5th July. For somewhat similar purposes, but under the Adoption Act of 1926, the Health Visitors paid 38 visits.

CASTLETON DAY NURSERY.

The number of children on the register in January was 67 and in December 64, as compared with 69 and 64 in the previous year.

The Nursery has accommodation for 60 children and the staff comprises :—

1 Matron ;	1 Assistant Matron (Trained Nursery Nurse) ;
6 Assistants ;	7 Student Nurses.

Altogether 152 medical examinations were performed during the year. The standard of nutrition was found to be very good on the whole.

56 were "A" Nutrition ; 94 were "B" Nutrition ; 2 were "C" Nutrition.

17 cases were referred for special treatment as compared with 22 in 1947.

Details are as follows :—

Ear, Nose and Throat	...	...	...	...	6
Eye conditions	...	...	...	...	2
U.V.R. Treatment	...	...	...	...	4
Dental Caries	...	...	...	...	5

Since October, 1947, routine inspections have been made by the Medical Officer in rotation with the Nursery Schools, approximately once in three weeks.

A Health Visitor is in attendance at these visits and maintains a friendly contact with the Matron, thus securing greater liaison with the Nursery and the Health Visitors' District work.

The Matron continues to maintain contact with the parents on matters relating to the health and care of the children.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, permits the Local Health Authority to make suitable arrangements for providing domestic help for households where need arises due to illness, in connection with a confinement in the home, or to provide for the care of aged persons, or of a young child, or of a mentally defective person. The Act also empowers the Authority to make reasonable charges for this service.

In actual fact such a scheme had been in operation since the beginning of 1947 and was, therefore, continued after the 5th July, with little modification except with regard to the adjustment of charges in the light of experience and reconsideration of the scales of pay in order to maintain satisfactory staffing.

During the year the service assisted 105 cases (32 cases of maternity and 73 of general sickness, etc.), as against 93 cases during 1947. The average period over which assistance was given was 23 days for maternity cases and 49 days for general sickness.

Although the scheme can be said to be satisfactory, success is still limited by the number of workers recruited for employment. During the year an average of 10 Helps was engaged in the Service. At the end of the year 18 Helps were employed but this number is still not sufficient to meet the steadily increasing demands made upon the service.

DAILY GUARDIANS SCHEME.

At the 31st December, there were 225 persons registered as approved guardians receiving 250 children.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

By virtue of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Borough of Rochdale as a Local Health Authority becomes responsible for mental illness and mental defectiveness to the same extent as it is responsible for physical illness. In the same way this Authority has no responsibility for providing hospital or institutional accommodation for mentally ill persons or mental defectives. This responsibility rests upon the Regional Hospital Board.

So far as mental illness is concerned, there has not been a very great apparent change since it has largely been a question of the transference from the old Social Welfare Department to the Public Health Department.

So far as mental deficiency is concerned, there has been a major change in view of the fact that responsibility was previously carried by the Lancashire Mental Deficiency Acts Committee for a wide region, including Rochdale. From the 5th July our own Health Committee becomes the responsible body.

The staff of this new Department consists of two Duly Authorised Officers with main responsibilities in regard to mental illness and two Mental Health Workers with main responsibilities in respect of mental defectives.

By the end of the year it had not been possible to make any new provision for the care of such persons in their homes, but a big step forward had been taken by reason of the fact that the staff mentioned was able to visit the homes regularly and establish a personal link with the patients and their relatives.

At the end of the year there were 82 mental defectives under various forms of supervision. Of these 18, including 13 males and 5 females, were under statutory supervision. The remainder were under voluntary supervision and included 4 under 16 years of age, 40 adult males and 20 adult females. Fourteen new cases, (8 males and 6 females), were reported during the year, of whom one was admitted to an institution and one taken to a "place of safety".

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year infectious diseases as a whole showed a slight increase over the previous year, which itself had shown a marked increase over 1946. It should be noted that increases are most marked in Scarlet Fever and Measles. In Scarlet Fever the increase was shown mainly in the last three months of the year. In the case of Measles, the increase is accounted for by a moderate increase throughout most of the year. There was only one peak of incidence in April and that did not reach the figures attained in January and February of the previous year.

Special attention must be drawn to the figure of eight notifications of Diphtheria which is by far the lowest figure recorded in the present century.

The notification of the various diseases totalled 1,163 as against 1,070 the previous year and an average of 1,086 during the five years 1942-1946. Comparative figures are given in the following summary :—

				1947	1948	Average 5 yrs. 1942-46
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	80	134	172
Diphtheria	...	...	...	21	8	55
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	122	103	96
Pneumonia	...	...	...	20	18	35
Whooping-Cough	...	...	...	195	206	150
Measles	...	...	...	565	641	544
C.S. Meningitis	...	...	...	5	4	6
Anterio-Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	5	6	—
Other Diseases	...	...	...	57	43	28
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				1,070	1,163	1,086
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition to the above formal notifications the following cases of infectious diseases were brought to the notice of the Department, chiefly through the medium of schools :—Whooping-Cough 42, Measles 78, and Chicken-Pox 150.

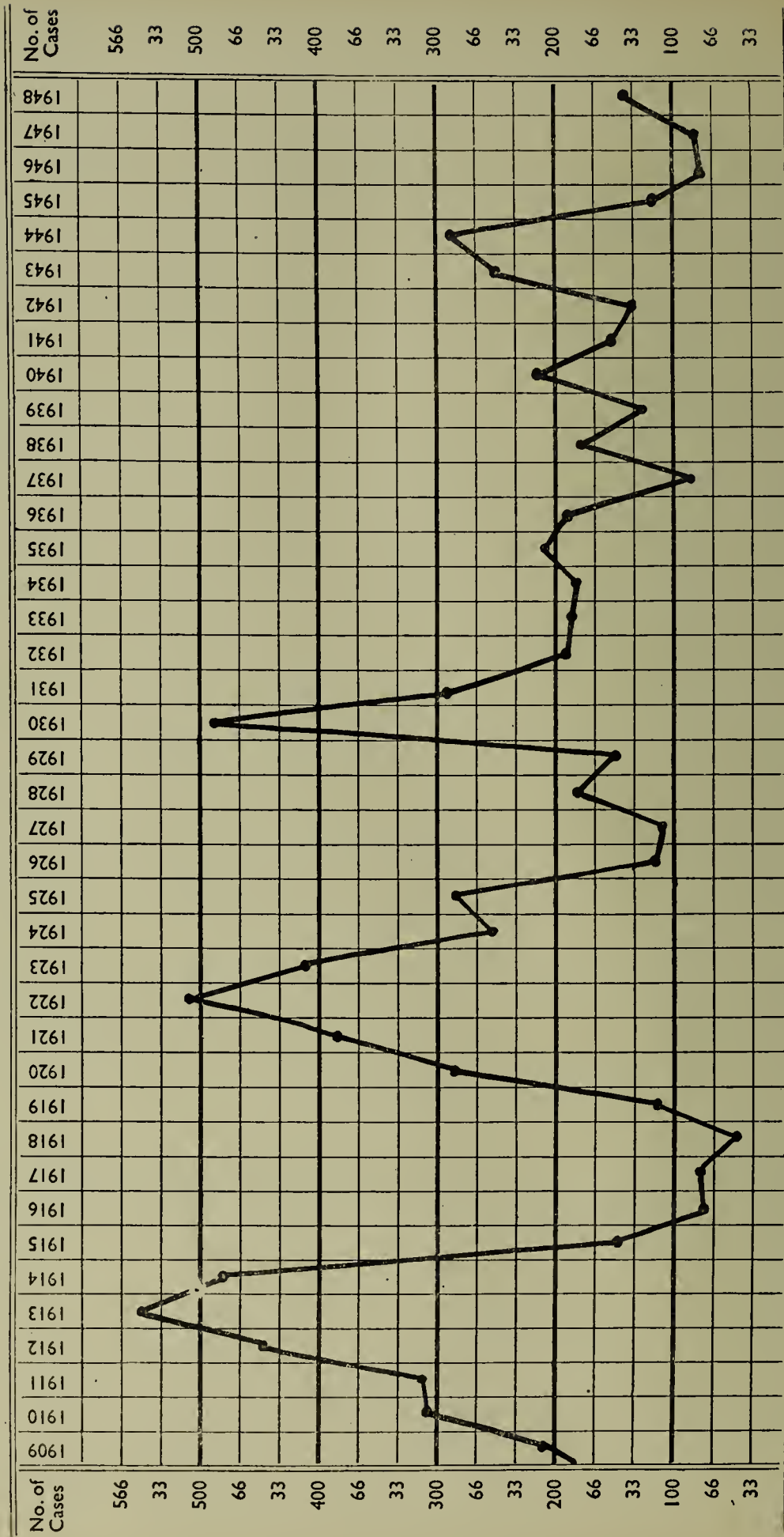
Although the incidence of Anterio-poliomyelitis throughout the country was much decreased as compared with 1947, the incidence in Rochdale was practically the same as in that year. Six cases were notified of which 5 were confirmed, including 4 children, and all were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. There were no deaths in this group.

The follow-up of the children showed that one had made a complete recovery while the others were continuing treatment and requiring the use of a walking caliper or other form of support.

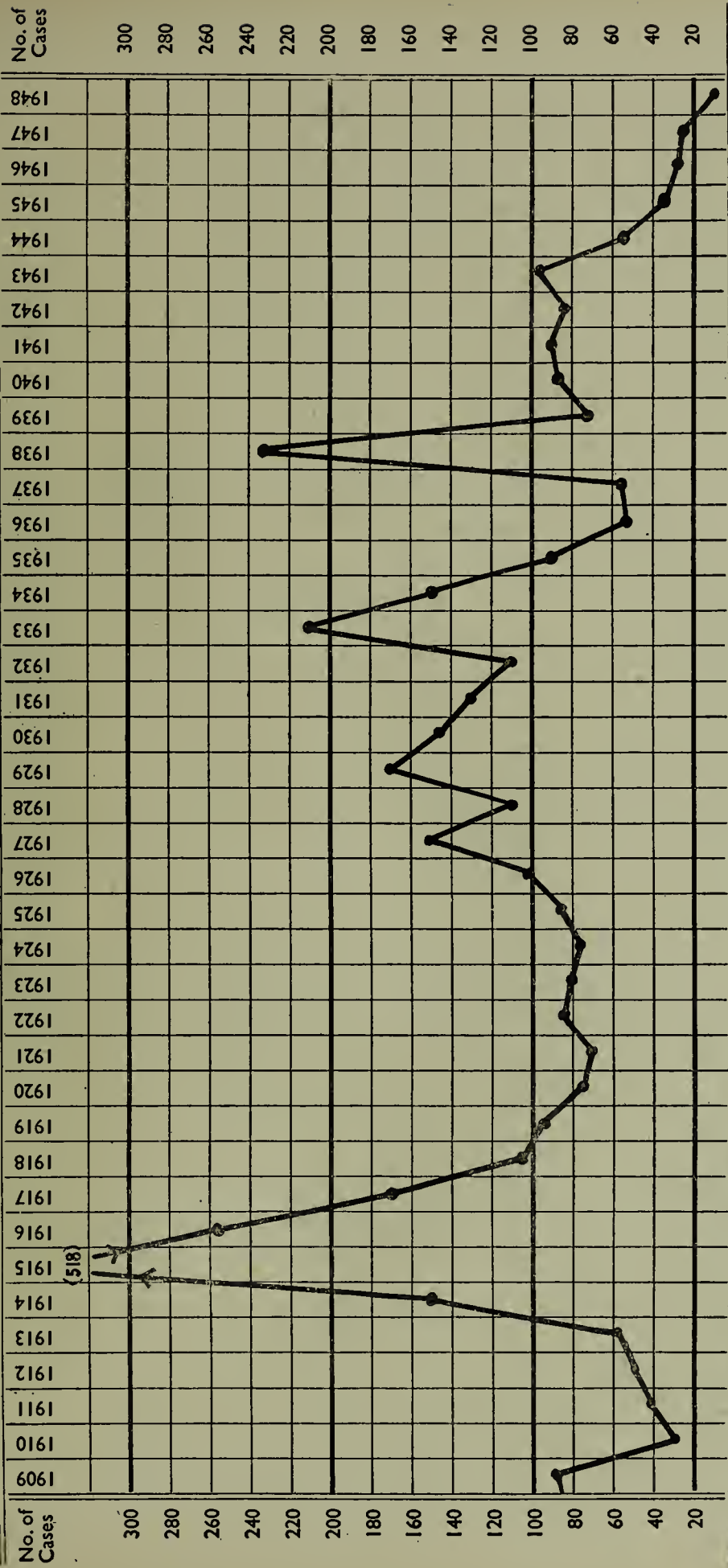
Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The accompanying graphs show the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria over the last 40 years. These graphs were commented on in last year's Report and it does not appear wise to analyse them at less than about five year intervals.

County Borough of Rochdale — Scarlet Fever Incidence — Years 1909-1948



County Borough of Rochdale — Diphtheria Incidence — 1909-1948



Marland Infectious Diseases Hospital.

There were 312 cases admitted to this Hospital from the Rochdale County Borough and the neighbouring County Districts, which together with 13 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1947, makes 325 cases treated during the year, as compared with 294 the previous year.

Of 18 cases sent in from the County Borough of Rochdale with a provisional diagnosis of Diphtheria, only 6 cases were confirmed. None of these 6 cases showed severe infection, only one case had been previously immunised and there were no deaths.

A summary of the cases admitted to Hospital from Rochdale is given below :—

DISEASE	In Hospital on 31st December 1947	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remain- ing in Hospital at end of Year 1948	Ages of Patients Admitted		
						Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever	3	101	88	...	16	33	66	2
Diphtheria	2	6	8	...	...	1	2	3
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis—								
(1) Cerebro Spinal ... ..	...	4	2	2	...	3	...	1
(2) Tuberculous ... ..	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	9	9	...	...	8	...	1
Erysipelas	1	12	11	...	2	...	...	12
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	3
Anterio-Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	5	5	...	...	3	1	1
Other Diseases	2	65	63	1	3	19	14	32
Total	8	207	190	4	21	69	83	55

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The campaign of general propaganda referred to in previous reports has been continued throughout the year in support of the national campaign.

The parents or guardians of each child are sent a card explaining the dangers of Diphtheria and the facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation on the child attaining the age of one, and the Health Visitors are provided with special cards which they again leave at the homes in the course of follow-up visits.

Immunisation continues to be available to the same extent as reported last year. These efforts throughout the year were effective in achieving immunisation in respect of 966 children under five and 494 children between the ages of 5 and 15.

These figures compare with 835 under five and 742 between the age of 5 and 15 in 1947.

In addition, 571 children received re-inforcing doses usually about four years after the initial treatment.

As mentioned in my last Annual Report it is becoming more and more apparent that the type of propaganda for Diphtheria Immunisation applicable

when Diphtheria was attaining epidemic proportions and causing severe illness with a number of deaths is no longer applicable to present conditions. A certain amount of general propaganda must still be conducted, but more and more the aim must be to reach the individual at the precise time that initial treatment or re-inforcing treatment is required. It is also necessary to have a method whereby personal propaganda can be directed where it is most needed and where it will produce the best results. For this type of propaganda, however, a considerable amount of background work is necessary.

For this purpose, and again as mentioned in last year's Report, a Code Card System has now been set up which gives precise information with regard to all children born in Rochdale and permitting the state of immunisation to be ascertained at any desired time.

The machinery has also been set up for this system to be continuously checked against the school registers. It is obvious, however, that to make the scheme a complete one it will be necessary to obtain regular and correct information with regard to the town's emigrant and immigrant child population.

It becomes more and more apparent that the need is urgent for complete collaboration between all Departments of local administration in order to avoid the continual wastage of time and personnel on follow-up work in one Department which is already being done by another Department of central or local government.

The ultimate aim in our present system is to establish a complete health record of every child in the Borough up to the age of 15 years. When properly established, not only will such a record be able to answer all questions on child health, but it will also be capable of itself initiating further enquiry or even action.

Throughout the year A.P.T. was used in two doses of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with at least four weeks between doses as the initial course. A second course, given about four years after the first, consists of one dose of 0.5 c.c. A.P.T.

During the year only 3 children under 15 years of age were admitted to hospital suffering from clinical Diphtheria. In all of these the disease was of a mild type and only one of these had previously been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 85 new cases of Tuberculosis notified as against 100 the previous year and 87 in the year 1946, and an average of 102 during the five years 1941-45.

Of these 85 cases, 68 were Pulmonary and 17 Non-Pulmonary. The Non-pulmonary cases showed a very definite increase as compared with 9 the previous year. In the age range 15-45 the number of new Pulmonary notifications of females was only half that for the previous year which showed exceptionally high incidence in this age group.

In addition 16 cases, 11 Pulmonary and 5 Non-pulmonary, came to the knowledge of the Department for the first time otherwise than by notification. Of these, 5 Pulmonary and 2 Non-pulmonary were reported after death and 6 Pulmonary and 3 Non-pulmonary were transferred from other areas.

Comparative figures are given below :—

Average 5 year periods	NOTIFICATIONS		
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Total
1913—17	184	108	292
1918—22	199	50	249
1923—27	85	40	125
1928—32	85	36	121
1933—37	81	26	107
1938—42	84	29	113
1943	73	25	98
1944	71	26	97
1945	56	21	77
1946	66	21	87
1947	91	9	100
1948	68	17	85

The following table gives a summary of the known cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough as at the 31st December, 1948 :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	235	183	418
Non-pulmonary	79	66	145
	<u>314</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>563</u>

The following table sets out the number of deaths and mortality rates for the years 1937 and onwards.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		All Forms	
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.
1937	50	0.54	14	0.15	64	0.69
1938	44	0.48	5	0.05	49	0.53
1939	41	0.46	6	0.06	47	0.52
1940	51	0.58	12	0.14	63	0.72
1941	53	0.61	11	0.13	64	0.74
1942	44	0.52	5	0.06	49	0.58
1943	36	0.44	10	0.12	46	0.56
1944	39	0.48	10	0.12	49	0.60
1945	32	0.39	6	0.07	38	0.46
1946	31	0.36	11	0.13	42	0.49
1947	41	0.47	9	0.10	50	0.58
1948	44	0.50	5	0.06	49	0.56

The 85 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease are arranged in the summary below :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	...
1—5 years	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	...
5—15 „	2	3	3	4	...	...	...	...
15—25 „	5	4	...	...	12	7	1	2
25—35 „	6	9	1	...				
35—45 „	7	4	...	1				
45—55 „	13	1	...	...	9	4	...	1
55—65 „	4	3	...	...		
65 years and over	2	...	...	2	6	3	...	..
TOTAL	42	26	7	10	28	16	2	3
1947	49	42	5	4	27	14	4	5

Tuberculosis Officer's Report. (Dr. A. H. Heyworth, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

There has been no great change in the Tuberculosis Services consequent on the operation of the National Health Act from the 5th July, 1948, as the County Borough continued their administration throughout the year acting, in the latter half, as agents of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

No patient has had to wait more than one or two weeks for a Sanatorium or Hospital bed and the average number of such beds occupied by Rochdale patients throughout the year has been 57.

Sanatorium accommodation has been adequate since increasing use has been made of the policy of short-term in-patient treatment in those cases where home circumstances are favourable and successful collapse therapy has been established in hospital. These patients do very well, carrying on the hospital regime in their own homes and attending the out-patient department for maintenance of the collapse treatment.

101 cases have been taken on the Dispensary Register of which 79 were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 22 were suffering from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The first category included 69 adults (42 males and 27 females) and 10 children. The second category included 9 adults (2 males and 7 females) and 13 children.

The age and sex incidence this year has been more normal than last year. The disquieting increase in adult female Pulmonary Tuberculosis which was the subject of comment in last year's Report has not recurred this year. It will be noticed that in the groups over 45 years, the incidence of male Pulmonary Tuberculosis is four times greater than that of female Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This increased incidence in males is generally ascribed to the influence of the two Wars on the male population and the greater laboriousness of their employment.

The death rate for male Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the age groups over 45 is more than double that for the corresponding female groups.

If it is true that the Tuberculosis incidence rate and the Tuberculosis death-rate are indices of social misery, then the lot of the ageing male is truly unfortunate. The misfortune falls most heavily on those who have not achieved economic success in life and in whose cases anxiety, responsibility, overwork, lack of sleep, unsuitable or inadequate dietary are factors which have all played their part. I would like to see these unfortunates safely gathered into hospital accommodation less rigorous than that offered by Sanatorium. Many of these cases have an associated Bronchitis and conditions at a Sanatorium are not suitable for them. All of these cases have had more than enough of discipline and surely all are entitled to special consideration and privileges.

Of the Pulmonary notifications, 18 adults (12 male and 6 female) and four infants are already dead. In these four infant deaths, the source of the infection is known—one from a mother, one from a father and two cases from grandfathers. Three of these sources had already had Sanatorium treatment and much instruction in the prevention of spread of infection. In the fourth case, the grandfather was not resident in the Borough and was not found to have Pulmonary Tuberculosis till after the child's death.

The 22 Non-pulmonary cases include 12 cases of glandular and cutaneous Tuberculosis, five cases of Tuberculosis of the abdomen, three cases of Tuberculosis of bones and joints, and two cases of Tuberculous Meningitis. Three adult females have died, one from Tuberculous Meningitis and two from Tuberculosis of the abdomen. 17 of the remaining 19 cases are already showing excellent recovery.

Ex-Service Cases.

Of the 22 primary notifications of adult male Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 12 are of men who had served with His Majesty's Forces in the last War. One man is retained in the Services on long-term treatment and is accommodated in a local Sanatorium and will be pensionable on discharge; the remaining 11 cases were diagnosed and notified locally. Two of these men did not apply for a disability pension. The Department supported claims for disability pension in 9 cases; 7 were successful. In addition the Department supported a claim to pension in the case of an ex-serviceman transferred-in to Rochdale and was successful.

Our thanks are again due to Mrs. K. P. Pooley of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association for her great help to these men in the preparation of their claims.

Contact Cases.

140 new contact cases were examined, but in only two of these cases was any form of Tuberculosis found on primary examination. Both cases (boys) have done extremely well on Sanatorium treatment at the Rochdale Children's Orthopaedic Hospital. In the examination of old contacts (primary examination in previous years), four cases were found. Two girls have recovered with Sanatorium treatment at the Rochdale Children's Orthopaedic Hospital and two infants died in hospital from rapid Tuberculosis.

Emigration Examinations.

Of the 85 cases examined one adult male was found to be suffering from active Pulmonary Tuberculosis requiring treatment.

Co-ordinated Thoracic Surgery Scheme.

Mr. Alex. Graham Bryce, F.R.C.S., Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, reviewed 20 cases of in-patients and out-patients at the Springfield Sanatorium and other cases at the Park Hospital Consultative Clinic, Davyhulme, as a result of which five cases were admitted to the Baguley Sanatorium where four cases had Thoracoscopy, one also had a Phrenic Crush; one patient had a three-stage Thoracoplasty. Four cases were admitted to the Baguley Emergency Hospital where two cases had Bronchoscopy alone and two cases had Bronchoscopy followed by operative removal of lung (Pneumonectomy) for Carcinoma of lung. One case was admitted to Manchester Royal Infirmary for a four-stage Thoracoplasty.

Streptomycin.

Our first case was a patient for whom we had been largely instrumental in arranging private Sanatorium treatment in Switzerland. He bought his own Streptomycin out there (£135) and commenced treatment in September, 1947. He was a desperate case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the Streptomycin combined with Artificial Pneumothorax treatment wrought a miraculous recovery, and he is back in regular employment.

Our second case was a patient for whom we arranged transfer from Marland Hospital to Brompton Hospital in April, 1948. His Streptomycin was flown over from America as a gift from the manufacturers and several ex-servicemen's associations in the U.S.A. His was an even more desperate case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Disseminated Tuberculosis. Combined with collapse therapy the Streptomycin treatment averted the imminent tendency toward a fatal issue and though he remains under Sanatorium treatment, he now has a favourable outlook.

A child transferred from Marland to Manchester Royal Infirmary in March, 1948, suffering from Tuberculous Meningitis survived three months till an unfortunate attack of acute Appendicitis precipitated a fatal recurrence of the trouble.

Later in the year Streptomycin was available for treatment of Tuberculous Meningitis and Miliary Tuberculosis in more numerous centres and a child admitted to Boundary Park Hospital, Oldham, transferred from Marland Hospital with Tuberculous Meningitis, is now apparently fully recovered.

In April, 1949, Streptomycin became available through special distribution centres for certain types of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in four defined categories and for another four defined categories of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Re-housing of Tuberculous Households.

During 1948 seventeen recommendations were made by the Tuberculosis Officer to the Medical Officer of Health for consideration of the Housing Committee, who approved sixteen of these recommendations. Fifteen households are already re-housed and the remaining household awaits the completion of the patient's Sanatorium treatment. Since the beginning of 1939, 222 such recommendations have been approved by the Housing Committee, a truly tremendous measure both on the curative side and the preventive side of Tuberculosis work.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three Clinic sessions have been held each week as in previous years. The number of new cases examined as suspected Tuberculosis was 450 as against 338 the previous year. In addition 142 persons were examined as contacts against 168 the previous year.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in the summary below :—

	1948	1947
Number of New Cases examined (excl. Contacts) ...	450	338
Total Number of Attendances of Patients ...	3,439	3,189
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1948— Highest 38—Lowest 2) ...	22	20
Number of Contacts examined ...	142	168
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year	299	320
Tuberculin Skin Tests ...	106	30
Personal and other Consultations by Tuberculosis Officer ...	1,540	991
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses ...	1,917	1,743
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary (Year 1948—Negative 12) ...	13	9
X-ray Examinations ...	690	498
Sputum Examinations ...	363	354
Emigration Examinations ...	85	35

Financial Assistance.

Necessitous cases of Tuberculosis were assisted in various ways during the year :—

	1948	1947
(a) Clothing and footgear provided	2	2
(b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc. ...	14	13
(c) House rent paid from a special Fund during residence of patient in Sanatorium	2	2
(d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing	—	2
(e) Sets of Dentures provided	3	1

Residential Treatment.

There were 63 Rochdale patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1947, and during the year 93 other patients (53 males, 40 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

Institutions	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1947	Admissions			Discharged during 1948	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1948
		Total	Males	Females			
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital	16	33	33	—	27	11	11
Springfield Sanatorium	27	30	—	30	27	10	20
Memorial Home, Norden	14	12	6	6	14	—	12
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	3	4	2	2	6	—	1
Other Sanatoria	3	14	12	2	7	3	7
TOTAL	63	93	53	40	81	24	51

Springfield Sanatorium.

At the end of 1948 there were 39 patients in residence of whom 20 were from Rochdale. During the year there were 59 admissions, 19 deaths and 47 discharges. The respective figures for Rochdale were 30 admissions, 10 deaths and 27 discharges.

Owing to staff shortages patients had to be transferred to Marland Hospital from the 5th May until the 18th June.

Special treatment carried out at the Sanatorium included Artificial Pneumothorax with 17 Inductions and 745 Refills, more than half of which were administered to out-patients, and Pneumoperitoneum treatment with 10 Inductions and 466 Refills. Five Phrenic Nerve operations were carried out.

The X-ray work carried out at the Sanatorium included 134 films for in-patients and 690 for out-patients, as well as 1,140 screen examinations for in-patients and 601 for out-patients. X-ray examination by film and screening was also carried out in respect of the nursing staff.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk and dairy trade who are suffering from Tuberculosis, whilst the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. No occasion has arisen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Although this Department is no longer responsible for the treatment of Venereal Disease no material changes had been made in the day to day arrangements at the end of the year. There were 711 cases (433 males and 278 females) dealt with during the year, as against 660 in 1947. The number of new cases was 342 which is equal to the average for the years prior to the war.

The following summary gives the number of cases dealt with during the past three years :—

	Year	1948	1947	1946
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
1. No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year		343	330	245
2. No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection.		8	6	5
3. No. of new cases who have had previous treatment		18	11	77
4. No. of new cases		342	313	555
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total cases dealt with ...		711	660	882
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
5. Total attendances—For attention of Medical Officer		7,047	5,927	7,452
For irrigation, dressing etc....		4,386	4,137	6,493
6. No. who ceased to attend—				
(a) Before completion of treatment		16	24	20
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure		12	11	8
7. No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal		330	278	330

All aspects of the work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic were discussed very fully in the 1946 Report, including the effects of war-time dislocation of population, occupation and family life. The years 1947 and 1948 show a return to more normal conditions so far as incidence is concerned. There can, however, be little doubt of the improved results in treatment with modern chemo-therapy. There are also indications that other branches of medical treatment are being relieved of the complications and later results of Venereal Disease.

Pathological Examinations.

The arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens referred from the Clinic and examined at the Laboratory number 1,115 as compared with 1,065 the previous year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

Water Supply.

- (i) The water supply of each of the several parts of the area has been satisfactory (a) in quality, (b) in quantity.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the treated water have been made, 92 samples having been examined during the year with satisfactory results. The results of chemical analysis of samples of the treated water were satisfactory.
- (iii) Whilst the raw water from each of the reservoirs would be liable to have plumbo-solvent action, no dissolved lead had been found during the year in any of them. The pH value of the water as it goes into supply is raised by the addition of lime water and is, no doubt, the explanation why on no occasion has lead been found in solution. For the past few years all the waters have been chlorinated. During the year 77 samples have been submitted for chemical analysis and have been found satisfactory.
- (iv) No special form of contamination has had to be dealt with during the past year, but practically all inhabited buildings have been removed from the gathering grounds. Negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of some of the few occupied premises still existing and the remainder will, no doubt, be acquired in the reasonably near future.
- (v) No dwellinghouses, nor any part of the population, are normally supplied by means of standpipes. The number of privately-owned sources of water supply is not large.

R. N. SIMPSON, A. Inst.W.E.
Engineer-in-Charge.

Drainage and Sewerage.

At Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works the sewage is screened after grit removal and then passed through Primary and Secondary Sedimentation Tanks. Half the flow is then passed through an Activated Sludge Plant constructed on the Kessener System and the other half is pumped to bacteria beds.....Good effluents are obtained and there is a little reserve of capacity.

Improvements have been carried out to several storm water overflows in the Borough, the cills in many cases being set at a height of 50% in excess of that required.

New detritus tanks, screening chambers and overflow weir at Trub Sewage Works have been constructed, resulting in more efficient extraction of floating material and settleable solids.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in this area, and any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor are reported to the Board for their attention.

The Department has been engaged in the gauging of flows of trade effluent from works discharging into Naden Brook with a view to designing a less costly scheme than originally envisaged for improving the standard of the effluent discharged.

W. H. G. MERCER, B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E.,
Borough Surveyor.

Meteorological Notes.

The following is a summary of the features of the year as recorded at the Meteorological Station, Roch Mills Sewage Works, and is included by courtesy of the Borough Surveyor.

The year was on the whole rather a dismal one, relieved only by gloriously sunny conditions through Easter and Whit Week-end, and a heat wave in the last week of July.

January was a notably mild month, but was also the wettest opening month for twenty years. On the other hand, March was the driest month of the year. The only real summer of the year occurred in May with a daily average of over 14 hours of sunshine in Whit-week and a total of 246 hours of sunshine for the month.

November brought what we believe to be the worst fogs on record, the last ten days of the month were particularly bad with very thick fog on the 22nd, 29th and 30th.

Throughout the year there were no fewer than 85 days on which no sunshine was recorded and 139 days on which the sunshine recorded did not exceed one hour.

In this connection it may be of interest to know that the deaths in the Borough showed a distinct rise at the end of November and in December.

Public Cleansing.

The Town Council resolved as from the 1st April, 1948, to provide and maintain dustbins for house refuse as a charge against the General Rate and so, in effect, to regard them as part of their refuse collection equipment. The Corporation supplied 4,066 British Standard Specification Dustbins in the first nine months of this arrangement, i.e. to 31st December.

Otherwise, there were no important extensions or improvements of the public cleansing service during the year. Indeed, a continuing shortage of suitable labour for this important, but frequently unattractive work, and a substantial increase of residuum from poor domestic fuel, made it impossible always to maintain the authorised standards of service as to frequency and/or quality.

House refuse was collected by covered motor vehicles and passed through a separation and incineration plant at Entwisle Road Depot. The processes included the screening out of fine ash and fuel cinder, the magnetic extraction and power-baling of tin-cans and other ferrous metals, the hand salvaging of other saleable things and the production of enough steam for the central public baths, the steam disinfector and the pig food plant. Here 1,361 tons of kitchen waste from Rochdale and eight other districts were sterilised by exposure to boiling point for at least one hour (1,460 tons in 1947).

The total tonnage of scrap metals sold was 743 (733), waste paper 592 (512), and textiles, bones, bottles, jars and fuel cinder 469 (381)

H. COOK, F.INST.P.C.,
Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

634 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 9 Abatement Notices for the abatement of nuisances and for the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers, and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below. The statement also includes the works carried out at factories and food storage premises, etc., following the service of preliminary notices, but excludes work done under the Housing Acts.

NATURE OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH	Nos.
HOUSES—	
Verminous dwellings disinfested	58
Dirty Houses limewashed and cleansed	13
Repairs to roofs, floors, walls, eavestroughing, rainwater pipes, chimneys, and general repairs to brickwork or stonework (including dampness) and repair or renewal of house fittings...	1327
YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—	
Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc.	28
Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed	13
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—	
Water-closet buildings repaired	65
Water-closet fittings repaired	101
DRAINS—	
Main or branch drains repaired or cleansed	58
GENERAL—	
Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises used for the preparation or storage of food	7
Absence, or unsatisfactory condition, of sanitary accommodation at factories	5
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied	22

Probably one of the most exacting duties falling upon this Department during recent years has been the investigation of applications for re-housing with a view to the presentation of most urgent cases to the Housing Committee.

During 1948, 257 houses have been inspected and reported upon in this connection. After inspection and report each case is considered individually by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector in accordance with certain broad principles before being referred to the Housing Committee for final decision.

The Corporation's Points Scheme was revised at mid-year with a view to concentrating still further on the most deserving cases. Towards the end of the year there was a distinct reduction in the number of cases requiring special investigation by this Department.

Housing.

During the year the work of overhauling and repairing 29 houses was completed. This work had been demanded by Notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, served in 1946 and 1947. The owners had not complied with them and in 1947 and 1948 the Committee carried out the work in default. The cost of the repairs which was very considerable will be recovered from the owners.

In the latter part of the year the Housing Committee agreed to accept suggestions for the demolition or closing of unfit houses. This, of course, was to be on a very limited scale and it was only possible to deal with houses which were both unfit for habitation and so dilapidated as to be dangerous. Representations were submitted in respect of 15 such houses during the last quarter of the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

130 smoke observations of one half-hour each were taken during the year and 12 contraventions of the Act (11 firms) were reported to the Committee.

The Committee authorised the service of the appropriate notice on ten of the firms concerned. In the remaining case the plant was undergoing repair.

The Inspectors found in the course of their duties in this respect a general willingness on the part of firms to co-operate in the reduction of smoke nuisance, but in almost every case complaint was made that the quality of the fuel was the cause of the trouble.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power have been kept informed of all unsatisfactory observations taken and their Engineers have co-operated with firms in the town in attempting to overcome their difficulties.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are seven of these premises now registered ; the accommodation provided comprises 35 rooms containing 445 beds.

Regular visits of inspection have been made during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There were 84 farms on the register at the end of 1948. 118 visits were made by the Dairies Inspector during 1948.

A tendency has been noted for the producer retailer to give up his own milk round and become a wholesale purveyor of milk.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 240, whilst the number retailing unbottled milk is four. With the exception of two, these are registered dairies. All premises have been inspected during the year.

Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation of and Sale of Food-stuffs.

During the year 1,912 visits have been made to this type of premises, chiefly slaughterhouses, butchers' shops and cooked food shops.

Rochdale Corporation Act, 1937.

This Act deals with the registration of premises for the preparation and sale of various foodstuffs. 17 premises were registered under the provisions of the Act during the year; these were chiefly concerned with the sale of ice cream. In addition, 1 hawker was licenced to sell wet fish, his premises being included in those mentioned above.

Meat and Food Supply.

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for sale. 26,101 carcasses were examined. Over 152 tons have been condemned as unfit for human food and either destroyed or disposed of for salvage purposes. This includes a large quantity of tinned foods from the Ministry of Food Reconditioning Depot, as well as whole or part carcasses condemned in the slaughterhouses, and unfit food reported from shops and warehouses.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The staff engaged in this work consists of two persons, with temporary assistance when sewer treatment is undertaken.

201 dwellinghouses and 175 business premises were visited or treated during the year. This required 1,314 visits and the estimated kill was at least 1,000 rats. The sewers were treated in the early part of the year; 2,115 manholes were pre-baited and poison baits were placed in 772 manholes where evidence of rats was found.

Shops Acts, 1912 and 1934.

No notices under these Acts were issued during 1948.

Offensive Trades.

The number of premises at which these trades are carried on in the Borough is as follows :—

Tripe boiling	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongering	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knacker's Yard (bone boiling)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	5

The Knacker's Yard is visited weekly. Routine visits are paid to the others.

Closet Accommodation.

The approximate accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1948, was as follows :—

Fresh-water carriage system	...	...	...	27,361
Pail closets	...	...	...	1,461
Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	1,552
Privy Middens	...	...	...	33

The tables showing the progress of conversion of pail closets have been omitted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Retail Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 165. 305 inspections were made and cleansing and limewashing have been carried out at appropriate times, but in 7 cases it was necessary to give verbal warning about the need for lime-washing.

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained and it has not been found necessary to issue any abatement notices in this respect.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

For purposes of provisions as to health in factories 365 visits were carried out by the Inspectors. This figure includes the 305 visits paid to bakehouses. Written notices were sent in eleven instances in respect of such defects as want of cleanliness and unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1915.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Cleanliness of Milk Supply.

74 samples of milk were taken to determine the cleanliness and keeping quality of the milk supply. In the case of pasteurised milks the efficiency of heat treatment was also determined. 55 of these samples were satisfactory in every way, 2 were doubtful and 17 were unsatisfactory. Three of the unsatis-

factory samples were produced out of the Borough and the local authorities concerned were asked to investigate conditions at the farms. Two other unsatisfactory samples were of sterilised milk and a report to the local authority in whose district the dairy was situated produced an immediate improvement. The remaining samples were all concerned with two farms in the Borough. In one of the cases an investigation and advice produced an early improvement, but in the other case a series of samples was taken to establish that the poor keeping quality was by no means a casual occurrence. At the same time every effort was made to trace the cause of the trouble and samples were taken at various stages of the milking and to test the adequacy of the cleansing of the utensils. The trouble was traced to this last factor and on being shown efficient methods of cleansing and sterilisation the farmer produced a satisfactory supply immediately. It remains to be seen whether this will be maintained.

Tuberculous Milk.

During the year 12 samples of milk were taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. All the samples were negative.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938.

205 samples of foods and drugs were submitted for analysis during the year, of these 197 were of milk, and 8 of other foods and drugs. Of the 197 samples of milk 32 samples were reported to be adulterated or sub-standard; 4 unsatisfactory samples were eventually proved by 10 "appeal to the cow" samples to be sub-standard and not adulterated. These cases were referred to the appropriate advisory body on herd management. 3 samples were proved to be sub-standard by the application of the Hortvet Freezing Point Depression Test. 7 samples had only minor deficiencies and the vendors were warned by the Health Committee. 3 were informal samples (2 vendors)—both cases were followed-up by formal samples, one of the vendors being prosecuted. In the case of the remaining 5 samples, prosecutions were instituted and fines totalling £55 together with costs of £7 7s. 0d. were imposed by the Magistrates.

The Borough Analyst remarks that the quality of the samples submitted, apart from those already dealt with, was on the whole eminently satisfactory.

CLEANSING STATION.

The general working of the Cleansing Station established at central premises in 1946 is under the supervision of a District Sanitary Inspector. The Station is open from Monday morning till Saturday mid-day. Evening sessions are available as required for those engaged in industry.

The following tables show the number of persons cleansed at this Station :—

	1948	1947	1946	1945
Scabies	241	465	937	1,021
Other Verminous Conditions ...	763	396	446	180
Total	1,004	861	1,383	1,201
	Scabies	Verminous Conditions	Total	
Infants	26	32	58	
Children of School Age ...	98	707	805	
Adults	117	24	141	
Total	241	763	1,004	

The increase in the number of cases of Verminous Conditions treated indicates that the Station, due to reduction in scabies, is now able to treat many more children with verminous heads who had previously to be treated at home.

The arrangements continued whereby all reports of verminous conditions, including Scabies, are collected in one register in the Public Health Department. These reports may come from the Education Department, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, owners or occupiers of premises and other persons or organisations. All premises reported in this category are visited by the Sanitary Inspectors and advice given according to the degree of infestation and the general conditions in the premises. Steps are taken to ensure that all persons infested with Scabies in the family attend at the Cleansing Centre.

**TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1948,
and previous years.**

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	LIVE BIRTHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett		Under 1 year of age		At All Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population
1938	91,290	1096	12.0	69	63	1271	13.9
1939	*90,300	997	11.0	55	55	1322	14.7
1940	†86,670	1072	12.4	96	89	1575	18.2
1941	†85,780	1136	13.2	76	67	1371	16.0
1942	†83,150	1276	15.3	90	71	1282	15.4
1943	†81,550	1268	15.5	58	46	1324	16.2
1944	†81,380	1320	16.2	67	50	1174	14.4
1945	†81,100	1267	15.6	56	44	1263	15.5
1946	†85,200	1521	17.8	75	49	1272	14.9
1947	†86,110	1725	20.0	95	55	1399	16.2
Average for years 1938-1947	85,253	1268	14.9	74	59	1325	15.5
1948	88,110	1500	17.0	57	38	1245	14.1

* Estimated Population for Birth-rate. The corresponding figure for Death-rate is 89,830.

† „ „ Civilian Population

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.
Year 1948.

	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES ... Males ...	614	35	8	3	43	177	348
... Females	631	22	6	1	42	145	415
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	44	1	2	...	19	13	9
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	5	...	1	...	3	1	...
8—Syphilitic Disease	5	...	...	...	...	4	1
9—Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
10—Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
11—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12—Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	9	...	...	...	...	1	8
... Cancer of Uterus	8	...	...	...	...	3	5
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	33	...	...	...	...	16	17
15—Cancer of Breast	17	...	...	...	2	9	6
16—Cancer of all other sites	117	...	2	...	9	46	60
17—Diabetes	8	...	...	...	...	...	8
18—Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	154	...	...	...	3	35	116
19—Heart Disease	334	...	...	...	14	85	235
20—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	108	...	...	...	...	21	87
21—Bronchitis	94	2	...	1	3	30	58
22—Pneumonia	24	11	2	...	1	4	6
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	21	...	...	...	3	10	8
24—Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	9	...	...	...	1	4	4
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4	4	...	...	...	...	...
26—Appendicitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
27—Other Digestive Diseases	23	...	...	...	3	8	12
28—Nephritis	24	...	...	...	3	6	15
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31—Premature Birth	18	18	...	...	...	...	...
32—Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	19	17	1	...	1	...	...
33—Suicide	18	...	...	...	10	3	5
34—Road Traffic Accidents	3	...	...	1	1	1	...
35—Other Violent Causes	19	3	1	1	1	3	10
36—All Other Causes	120	1	1	1	8	19	90

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under one year of age—Year 1948.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH				AGE AT DEATH					Total Deaths under 1 year	
				Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1947	1948
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	2	3	...	16	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	11	4
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...	17	1	...	...	...	28	18
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	13	4	...	...	...	27	17
Violence	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	4	3
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	1
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	33	13	6	5	...	95	57

Nett Live Births in the year :—Legitimate 1,405 ; Illegitimate 95.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 51 ; Illegitimate infants 6

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

For the Year ended 31st December, 1948

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SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Chairman of Education CommitteeAlderman C. CROWDER.
Chairman of Medical Services and Special School Sectional Committee	...	...	...	...Alderman S. DIGGLE.
Director of Education	...	...	...	...A. ROYDS, B.Sc., M.Ed.
Schools Medical Officer	...	...	...	...JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.
Assistant Schools Medical Officers	...	...	...	...NORA MILLS, M.D. ...ERIC P. WHITAKER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Senior School Dental Officer	...	...	...	...H. P. GLEDSDALE, L.D.S.
Assistant School Dental Officers	...	...	...	...R. J. G. YOUNG, L.D.S. One Vacancy
Speech Therapist	...	...	...	...Vacant
School Nurses	...	...	...	...M. CROWTHER, R.F.N., S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V. E. BLEASDALE, S.R.N., S.C.M. O. FAIRHURST, S.R.N., C.M.B. M. M. TURNER, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V. B. MADEN, S.R.N. M. WILD, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Dental Attendants	...	...	...	...G. PETRIE. V. M. BROWN. J. M. COCKCROFT.
Clerk	...	...	...	...J. MILLS.

Consultants :

Ophthalmic Surgeons	...	...	...	...P. HARRY, M.D., D.P.H. R. S. SCOTT, M.B., B.Ch., D.O.M.S.
Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant	...	...	...	...V. SMITH, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.
Orthopædic Consultant	...	...	...	...W. H. BATEMAN, M.B., Ch.B.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1948, being the forty-first report on the work of the School Medical Service in Rochdale.

The Report is mainly one of continued and steady progress in remedial and preventive medicine amongst school children.

The **School Population** continued to increase until Easter, 1948, and since that time the full effects of the raised school leaving age have begun to be felt, particularly in Routine School Inspection. Four age groups have been examined since it has not been considered justifiable to discontinue the examination of the 7 plus group. This group was again found to be important from the point of view of the discovery of defects.

With the opening up of new housing estates there has been a considerable amount of re-distribution of the children amongst schools.

The **General Physical Condition** of the pupils examined was found to be very satisfactory on the whole and the cleanliness of the children inspected showed considerable improvement.

A very gratifying decrease in the cases of Scabies and Impetigo was observed and, in fact, very little skin disease of any kind was discovered at Routine Inspections.

As a general rule parents were found to be co-operative. The operation of the **National Health Service Act** has had little influence on the routine work of the Department, but has had a most unfortunate effect upon the provision of glasses. Children now have to wait many months for spectacles whereas before the 5th July, it was unusual to wait for more than a week or two.

The number of children requiring specialist consultations has increased and the Authority is seeking the co-operation of the Regional Hospital Board in providing the extra specialist sessions.

In the Spring of the year there was a fair amount of Chicken-Pox, Mumps, and Measles amongst the children with a considerable amount of Ear troubles and some persistent Conjunctivitis lasting well into the Summer.

Over the whole year, however, the attendance at the Minor Ailments Clinic has shown a great reduction.

In April the Education Authority appointed an Educational Psychologist to work in the schools and as a result urgently needed work in connection with **Mal-adjusted and Educationally Sub-Normal Children** is being undertaken.

The commencement of actual structural work and alterations at High Birch gives definite promise of early provision of educational facilities for sub-normal children. Since the 5th July notifications of ineducable children are made to the Health Committee of our own Corporation instead of to the Lancashire Mental Deficiency Acts Committee which has now been disbanded.

There is close co-operation between the School Doctors who do the work of ascertainment of mental defective children and the newly appointed Mental Health Workers who ultimately become responsible for the supervision of these children. The same close co-operation occurs between this Department and that of the Children's Officer who took up duties in May.

The **School Meals Service** has been improved during the year by the appointment of a Schools Meals Organiser and by the building and staffing of three new cookhouses and canteens.

Educational Work outside the schools has been continued by means of addresses to groups of people, mainly women and girls of social and religious organisations. The personal contacts made at these meetings are regarded as valuable methods of disseminating knowledge of healthy living.

The various conferences and refresher courses which the medical and nursing staff have attended with the approval of the Committee, are much appreciated by the staff.

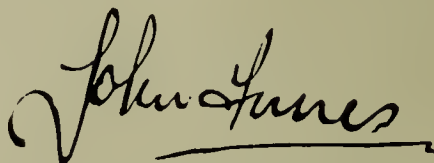
It is encouraging to know that preliminary work has been done towards the acquisition of new clinic premises, without which the staff are still working under difficulties.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation which the staff has received throughout the year from the Chairman and Members of the Medical Services and Special Schools Sectional Committee and to thank the Director of Education and his staff for their assistance.

In conclusion my own thanks are once again due to the Medical, Dental and Nursing staff of the Department for the high standard maintained throughout the year and, in particular, I have to thank Dr. Mills for the preparation of the detail of this Report

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health,
and School Medical Officer.

1st June, 1949.

School Medical Service

The Registrar General's estimated civilian population for the County Borough for the year 1948 is 88,110.

The numbers of schools in the Borough and the number of children on the registers of each group at the end of the year is shown in the following Table.

	No. of Schools		No. of Children	
County Schools	14	...	8,994
Voluntary Schools	14	...	4,734
Grammar Schools	2	...	919
Junior Technical Schools	1	...	157
Nursery Schools	4	...	321
Open Air Schools	1	...	120
Hospital Day Schools	1	...	38
		37		15,283

The Staff of the School Medical Service is set out on Page 3. During the whole of the year the position of Speech Therapist has been vacant. One Assistant School Dental Officer has resigned and it has not been possible to replace her. No fresh appointments have been made in the Child Guidance Clinic which, therefore, ceased to operate as from October, 1947.

School Hygiene.

Improvements in sanitary accommodation have been carried out during the year in the Fleece Street Central School and in the Newbold Infants' School.

It is, unfortunately, still true that many schools fall far short of modern requirements in sanitary accommodation, both with regard to quality and with regard to quantity.

Periodic Medical Inspection.

All the schools have been visited for periodic medical inspection during the year, including for the first time, the Open Air School. The new main School Record Cards are now in use for all entrant children and the statistics have been kept in the form required by the Ministry, so that the Returns are complete.

Total inspections during the year by Medical Officers :—

	1947		1948	
Periodic Medical Inspections	4,076	...	4,574
Special Inspections	257	...	820
Re-inspections	296	...	1122
Open Air School (Inspections)	2,586	...	2,362
Clinic Inspections (New cases)	2,058	...	2,041
Clinic Re-inspections	1,775	...	2,413
Special Examinations and Investigations...	803	...	706
		11,851		14,038

Cases seen by Ophthalmologists	537	567
Cases seen by Aurist	380	463
Cases seen by Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon ...	195	186

WORK OF SCHOOL NURSES :

	1947	1948
Dressings at morning clinics	12,278	4,100
Cleanliness Inspections	15,961	16,979
Re-inspections	1,626	2,044
Inspections with Medical Officers—		
At School	7,215	6,516
At Clinics	4,558	3,531
Refractions	537	556
Open Air School	2,586	2,362
Aurist's Clinic	380	486
Home Visits	359	262
	<hr/> 45,500	<hr/> 36,836

The number of school inspections has again been increased because the school population has increased and because there have been no changes and no absences of medical staff, so that it has been possible to organise the work more effectively and perform it more thoroughly. Some of the leeway caused by years of understaffing is being made up, but there is still a great deal of work which has to be left undone. It is still not possible, for example, to give to all retarded children the full and detailed investigation they should have, and much minor deafness probably goes undetected, especially in this industrial district where catarrhal conditions of the upper respiratory tract are still so prevalent in young children. Group audiometric testing would ascertain these cases and it is considered that this work should be undertaken if and when staff and equipment can be made available.

The Educational Psychologist appointed during 1948 has group-tested the whole seven year group and is shortly testing the eleven year group. The results of this testing should provide material for more complete investigation into special senses, intelligence quotient, family history and social background, apart from the medical examination normally made.

The apparent decrease in specials and increase in re-inspections is due to the realisation that for statistical purposes most cases referred as "specials" are actually children of whose defects we previously had knowledge and who, therefore, are observation or follow-up cases rather than specials.

Findings at Medical Inspections.

The number of individual pupils found to require treatment as a result of these periodic inspections is shown in Table I (C) on Page 20. In comparison

with last year the number of individual children requiring treatment for defective vision, excluding squint, is nearly four times greater than the corresponding figures for 1947.

The increase is more apparent than real and rises out of the strict interpretation of the Ministry's instructions with regard to the classification of children examined, particularly the instruction that children must be noted as requiring treatment for a defect even if they are already under treatment for that defect. In previous years the defect of vision would have been noted on the first inspection, but not afterwards when the child was wearing the appropriate spectacles. On the other hand the number of children found to require treatment for other conditions this year is very much lower than in the previous year.

Reference to Table II on Page 21 will show a general reduction in the number of defects found at medical inspections as compared with last year except in regard to defects of vision already referred to and certain Orthopaedic defects. In respect of the latter a careful review of the findings would show that this represents a finer search for such defects rather than a real increase in the number of defects.

Nutrition.

The general standard of the pupils inspected (Table II (B)) shows that out of 4,574 pupils inspected 92.19% were of "fair" or "average" condition with 4.81% of "good" general condition and only 2.99% of "poor" general condition. As compared with the previous year there is a slightly higher percentage both of the good category and the poor category, and a corresponding reduction in the fair or average general condition. It must always be borne in mind that the personal factor in medical examination and assessment is of greater importance than any theoretical standards which can be laid down for assessing the general condition of growing children.

Minor Ailments Clinic.

The total attendances during 1948 were 4,100 and the individual cases 1,470 against 12,278 and 4,558 during 1947. The reason for this rather surprising drop in numbers is not clear as the total school population has increased during the year and also because the drop is in all types of minor ailments, even small casualties such as cuts and bruises. As will be seen in Table III for the two years (Page 22), Impetigo cases are down from 252 in 1947 to 65 in 1948, Ringworm from 77 to 16, other Skin Diseases from 433 to 34, Scabies from 296 to 81, and miscellaneous cases from 2,541 to 1,082.

This reduction in the number of children requiring purely curative attention such as dressings, is a welcome and encouraging feature of the year's work. The School Nurses are able to devote more time to preventive work such as interviewing and advising parents. It will also be seen from the figures under the heading "Total Inspections by Medical Officers" that the consultations have increased by 621 to 4,454 during the year which is again an encouraging sign. Matters discussed with parents during these consultations become less medical

and more sociological. Parents now seldom expect a bottle of medicine or a prescription, the latter of which in any case the School Medical Officer is not permitted to give under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The occasional aperient, tonic or anthelmintic recommended has to be paid for by the parent.

Most of the advice given in these consultations is still a counsel of perfection either because overcrowded and otherwise unsatisfactory housing conditions make it impossible to follow the instructions about ventilation, quietness and rest or, more frequently, because those parents whose children are most in need of advice are unwilling or too apathetic to carry it out. The lazy, backward and ignorant parent blames housing conditions when the home is poor, but after re-housing complains that the roomier house makes too much work. Some women can only be described as having a one-room mentality and can be found with the whole family sleeping in one room after rehousing into a three bedroomed house which is the right size by normal standards. The reason given will usually be lack of bedding.

Much time is still spent in giving advice about food, including the use of "points" and recipes for vegetable dishes and sandwich fillings. There seems to be a fairly wide appreciation of the fact that green vegetables are a good thing, judging by the frequency with which parents complain that their children will not eat them. Advice is generally given in these cases that the vitamin-containing foods such as tomatoes, cresses, parsley, marmite, etc., be given raw in a sandwich at teatime, to be eaten first. Our experience at the Open Air School is that most children will readily take these in this way.

Uncleanliness.

There is no reduction in the numbers of children found with infested hair. In fact, the percentage found to be affected was 10.57 as compared with 9.14 in 1947. However, examination of the figures for the last ten years shows a definite lessening in the severity of the infestation as is seen in the following list :—

				Number Seen	Nits only	Live Vermin
1939	...	...	...	10,504	7.50%	2.78%
1940	...	...	...	9,518	9.48%	2.29%
1941	...	...	...	12,574	14.25%	1.03%
1942	...	...	...	19,501	9.90%	0.53%
1943	...	...	...	14,974	12.02%	0.71%
1944	...	...	...	13,453	13.81%	0.97%
1945	...	...	...	14,489	12.91%	0.46%
1946	...	...	...	12,789	10.44%	0.34%
1947	...	...	...	15,961	9.22%	0.18%
1948	...	...	...	16,979	9.82%	0.16%

See also Table V. (Page 24).

Scabies.

There has been a very large reduction in the incidence of Scabies in school children, only 81 cases having needed treatment at the Health Committee's Cleansing Centre as compared with 296 in 1947. As a direct result of this decrease, more cases of verminous heads have been treated at the Centre than in former years.

Cases treated at Centre.

	Complete Treatments	Single Treatments
Verminous heads	374	43
Scabies referred by Clinic	59	—
Scabies referred by family doctor	22	—

Eye Clinic.

Except during holidays, two clinics per week have been held throughout the year. The number of individual children attending the sixty eight clinics was 556, but since many attended later for observation, the total attendances were 685. Of these, 49 were referred to the Royal Manchester Eye Hospital for Orthoptic treatment, the nearest place at which such treatment can be obtained.

Some severe cases of Blepharitis and Conjunctivitis were referred to the Ophthalmologists from the Minor Ailments Clinic. A few of the cases occurring in the Spring were refractory to treatment and after the acute condition had settled down the eyes watered for some time afterwards.

During the first few weeks after the 5th July, the operation of the Health Act caused great confusion at our Eye Clinics, since apparently the new regulations were drafted with no knowledge of the normal procedure at School Eye Clinics. None of the Statutory O.S.C.2. Forms were received until after the first fifty children had been examined. This caused much trouble in the clerical work and, in addition, a great deal of time was wasted obtaining parental signatures which during the third week in August were decided to be unnecessary.

The most disturbing feature about the new Ophthalmic arrangements has been and still is the long delay in delivery of glasses and the fact that no system of priority is available even for children with marked Myopia at important times in their educational career. These unfortunate children are partially blind without glasses and cannot well make up their loss of education later on. So far there has been no improvement in the position.

An additional though minor point which has been noted is that many parents are unable or unwilling to take the responsibility now theirs of selecting an optician themselves and persist in asking which firm we recommend.

At the end of the year, 122 cases where glasses had been prescribed, were investigated and only 50 were found to have received the glasses, 70 were waiting for glasses and in the remaining two cases the prescription forms had not been

taken to an optician though they had been in the parent's possession for two months. It will be appreciated that one effect of the delay in honouring prescriptions is that effective follow-up work is practically impossible and that children whom the Ophthalmologist wishes to observe after three or even more months, cannot be examined wearing the glasses they have never received.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Infections of the upper respiratory tract and its annexes remain one of the chief problems of the School Medical Service here, in spite of the steady improvement in general physique and well being. The amount of remedial work still to be done by means of dressings, instillations, insufflations and operations remains unreduced. In fact, our waiting list of new cases for the Consultant Aurist's Clinic became so large, chiefly because of the large number of chronic cases, such as Otitis Media, attending for re-examination and observation, that towards the end of the year it was decided to institute an additional Clinic once weekly. It is expected that this will meet the situation as regards the waiting list, but from the point of view of preventive medicine it is regrettable that so many of these children should ever need treatment at all. It may well be that we shall have to wait the eventual clearing of pollution from the air of this industrial belt.

That Rochdale has acquired power to declare certain areas of the town as Smokeless Zones is good news.

Since the 14th January, the Clinic has been held at the former Child Guidance Clinic and these premises have been found as satisfactory as they could be apart from the main School Clinic building, which is already overcrowded. As was anticipated, the number of children attending increased as will be seen from the following summary :—

	Rochdale		Lancs. C.C. School Children
	School Children	Children under School Age	
Children attending Consultant Clinic			
New Cases	289	30	96
Re-examinations	363	14	70
Total	652	44	166
Cases admitted to Birch Hill Hos- pital for removal of Tonsils and Adenoids	214	15	34
Cases admitted to Birch Hill Hos- pital for Operative Treatment other than Tonsils and Adenoids...	1	1	—
Cases admitted to Hospital with Acute Otitis Media for Penicillin Therapy	8	1	—
Cases on Waiting List for Tonsils and Adenoids	172	51	42

Although, as was said earlier in this Report, many minor degrees of partial deafness remain unrecognised, it is not possible at present to obtain immediate or even early admission to Special Schools for children already ascertained to be in need of Special School education. We have three boys and one girl at present on the waiting list for admission either to the Royal Residential School at Old Trafford or the Thomasson Memorial School at Bolton. We have also two girls and two boys who for various reasons are not on any waiting list although they are ascertained as partially deaf.

There are four boys and one girl already in Special Schools.

Day Open Air School.

Seventy-six children have been discharged from the school during 1948 as compared with 53 during 1947, the reasons for their admission being as follows :—

	Girls	Boys
Malnutrition	4	5
Rheumatism	1	1
Pre and Post Tuberculosis	5	3
Heart Conditions	2	1
Non-tubercular Chest Conditions	7	3
Nervous Conditions	7	4
Anaemia and Debility	7	9
Chronic Blepharitis and Kerato-iritis	2	—
Skin Conditions	1	—
Alopecia Areata	—	2
Cases for observation	7	4
Bright's Disease	—	1
	<hr/> 43 <hr/>	<hr/> 33 <hr/>

The boys with Alopecia were brothers. New hair grew satisfactorily in one case, but the other boy was completely epilated and was eventually provided with a wig.

The main symptoms of the children admitted for observation were as follows :—

1. Girl, aged 12 years. Frequent bilious attacks causing absence from school. Discharged after eighteen months much improved in physique, gained 18 lbs. and having attended school regularly. Still liable to biliousness.
2. Girl, aged 7-11/12 years. Various nervous symptoms troubling her such as shaking and trembling, "funny little attacks" and enuresis. Child sent back to former school by mother after twelve months as she was much improved. Gained 6¼ lbs.
3. Girl, aged 9 years. History of "faints". Had one faint a month after admission, none afterwards. Left after sixteen months, gained 8½ lbs. in weight.

4. Girl, aged 10 years. Blepharitis, pharyngitis, poor circulation with chilblains and blue fingers. Improved and was discharged after ten months, having gained 11 lbs.
5. Girl, aged 10 years. Frequent fainting and nausea. Symptoms cleared up and child discharged after fourteen months, having gained 15 lbs.
6. Girl, aged 8 years. Fainting attacks with no apparent cause. These stopped very soon and she was discharged after twelve months perfectly well, having gained $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
7. Girl, aged 9 years. Frequent septic spots, slow in healing. She improved steadily, but left after eight months to live in another town.
8. Boy, aged 8 years. Lack of progress and loss of weight. Discharged well after seventeen months, having gained 12 lbs. 2 ozs.
9. Boy aged 7 years. Behaviour problems which improved after two months sufficiently for him to return to his former school.
10. Boy aged 7 years. Behaviour problems. Was no trouble whatsoever at the Open Air School and was sent back to his own school after a month.
11. Boy, aged 8 years. Frequent fainting in school. These faints were found to be Epileptic fits and the child was admitted to a special school for such cases.

There has so far been no reason to alter, except in detail, the routine of life at the Open Air School from that laid down when the School first opened. As then, a bus brings the children from the Town Centre to the School at 9-0 a.m. There is a break in lessons for mid-morning milk ; dinner is served early and after it the children lie down and most of them sleep for an hour and a half. Tea is given at 4-0 p.m. when the afternoon lessons finish and the bus takes the children back to the Town Centre. A hundred and twenty children can be accommodated and the register is always full. The School Doctor and Nurse visit the School at least once a week and boys and girls are weighed alternate weeks. Easter and September are the main admission dates, but any vacancy which occurs is filled immediately. Children are not normally admitted below the age of seven, as very young children have not been found to benefit as much as older ones from attending the Open Air School.

The mid-day rest, together with the general atmosphere of calm and peace associated with firm discipline works wonders in ironing out emotional difficulties and behaviour problems in children from noisy, busy and crowded homes. It is found that many such difficulties occur in children whose parents are both out at work and who for this or some other reason are not readily available for the child's comfort and support so that the child has nobody to rely on in the minor crises which continually arise in children's physical, mental and emotional life.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

So far the operation of the National Health Service Act has made no difference to the arrangements between this Department and the Rochdale Children's Orthopaedic Hospital and Clinic. During the year 186 new cases were referred to Dr. Bateman and of these 33 were cases of debility for in-patient treatment and the rest were actual Orthopaedic cases, many of them being minor postural errors, diagnosed as follows :—

	1948	1947
Flatfoot ... -	19	71
Other Foot Deformities	35	
Kyphosis, Scoliosis, Lordosis	33	17
Genu Valgum	13	10
Genu Varum	1	5
Spastic Para, Mono or Hemiplegia	2	4
Chest Conditions	17	6
Poliomyelitis	4	—
Osteomyelitis	4	3
Osteochondritis	8	—
Miscellaneous	32	35
	<u>168</u>	<u>151</u>

As for several years past, foot troubles are the chief Orthopaedic defects met with in School Medicine. Children's foot-gear is often found to be of bad design and worse workmanship so that even protective qualities are lacking after a very short period of wear.

Dr. Bateman has continued to give us his usual patient understanding of our problems and his skill in dealing with them.

Infectious Disease.

	1948	1947
Scarlet Fever	94	61
Diphtheria	2	9
Measles	384	481
Whooping Cough	155	96
Chicken Pox	109	74
German Measles	27	23
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	4
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1
	<u>474</u>	<u>772</u>

Nursery Schools and Meanwood Nursery Class.

During the year 1948 all children in the Nursery Schools were medically inspected and special cases requiring medical treatment and those of substandard nutrition were frequently re-inspected.

609 children were examined and their standard of nutrition was found to be very good. 174 were classified as Nutrition "A" ; 419 as Nutrition "B" and 16 as Nutrition "C".

75 cases were referred for special treatment, details of which are as follows :-

Ear, Nose and Throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
U.V.R.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous (Dental caries, skin conditions)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

Children requiring specialist treatment for Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye complaints were referred through the School Medical Service as in previous years.

The Health Visitors pay regular visits to the Nursery Schools for the purpose of examining for infestation with nits and vermin, and in the course of the year 7,721 examinations were carried out, of which 6,853 (approximately 72%) showed children's heads to be clean.

As in 1947, these conditions were found to be more pronounced at South Street and Thames Street Schools than at the others. The larger number of unclean heads in these two schools is probably due to the poorer housing conditions in these two areas. The lighting in these houses also is poor, and as nights are the only time which the working mothers have for the care of their children unclean heads are apt to be missed.

Diphtheria Immunisation was carried out at all nursery schools in respect of each fresh batch of entrants.

DENTAL REPORT.

(H. P. Gledsdale, L.D.S., Senior Dental Officer).

During the year 44 School Departments have been visited for Routine Dental Inspections, 8,010 children being examined on these occasions. A total of 3,476 were found to require treatment and of these 2,256 were actually treated. There were 1,169 additional children who attended the clinic as "specials", being both inspected and treated, and 4,666 attendances were made for various operations. 2,505 temporary and 173 permanent teeth were extracted, and 4,076 were conserved.

The Service has not been able to function at maximum efficiency owing to the resignation of Miss Andrews, Assistant School Dentist, early in the year. Since no replacement has been forthcoming it was necessary to close the Balderstone and Brimrod Clinics and suspend routine operations in those areas, restricting treatment to emergency work only.

The other two areas have been maintained normally and it is hoped that the handicap of inadequate staff will be overcome.

The advent of the National Health Service has served only to increase the work of the Clinics. Many children who had previously refused School treatment are now accepting and the number of "specials" has almost doubled.

The National Health Service cannot replace the systematic inspection of all children attending school and the regular treatment of them in school hours. Only a small percentage of parents take their children for routine examination and without the School Service treatment would be largely that for relief of pain, few reaching adolescence with a sound set of teeth—the aim of the School Service.

The general dental condition of the children of the Borough is fairly satisfactory and there is more interest in dental matters amongst parents of young children. Acceptance of treatment varies considerably from school to school, but of those found to require treatment 74 % attended the Clinics.

					Inspection	Treatment	Total
SESSIONS	...	...	...	...	77	901	978
					Routine	Specials	Total
ATTENDANCES	...	...	...	...	3,497	1,169	4,666
					Temporary	Permanent	Total
EXTRACTIONS	...	...	...	...	2,505	173	2,678
FILLINGS	...	...	...	...	448	3,628	4,076
OTHER OPERATIONS	...	...	...	...	423	1,185	1,608
GENERAL ANAESTHETICS	...	...	...	...			237

Age Groups Inspected.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
98	338	637	668	713	792	757	711	753	771	731	706	186	65	56	28	=8,010

PROVISION OF MEALS.

The kitchens and dining rooms indicated below were completed and brought into use during 1948 :—

School	Project	
Greenbank	...Kitchen and Dining Room	...500 meals (2 sittings)
Halifax Road	...Kitchen and Dining Room	...250 meals (2 sittings)
Heybrook	...Dining Room and Scullery	...250 meals (2 sittings)
Norden	...Kitchen and Dining Room	...375 meals (2 sittings)

By the end of 1948 work on the kitchen and dining room (375 meals—2 sittings) for the Meanwood School was well advanced and it is anticipated that the building will be completed early in 1949.

Work was commenced on the dining room and scullery (375 meals—2 sittings) for the Lowerplace School and it should be completed by September, 1949.

Contracts were let for the erection of kitchen and dining rooms at the Derby Street and Spotland Schools (both 375 meals—2 sittings) and every endeavour will be made to complete these projects by the end of 1949.

Negotiations were commenced for the acquisition of a site for the kitchen and dining room for the Oakenrod School. The Ministry of Education approved the Authority's proposal for the erection of a kitchen and dining room for the Newbold School and negotiations are being carried out for the acquisition of a suitable site.

The senior pupils of the Heybrook school are now using the Cook Street Institute premises for canteen purposes since the pupils of the Halifax Road School are now dining in their own new school canteen. Additional premises have been rented at the Lowerplace Methodist Church for the use as a canteen by the pupils of the Lowerplace Senior School, pending the erection of the new dining room and scullery referred to above.

It is anticipated that early in 1949 arrangements will also be made for the pupils of the Fleece Street, Boys' High School and Technical Schools to have separate canteens in the Smith Street Old Baths premises.

46 canteens are in use for school meals purposes and the Authority now has a producing capacity of approximately 6,000 meals per day (i.e 60% of the school population) as against the proposed capacity of 75% of the school population.

By December, 1948, 22 women supervisors were employed in infant department canteens and 10 in junior department canteens and applications for appointment as assistant women supervisors will be considered early in 1949. A further 16 women supervisors or assistants are still required to meet the proposed establishment in each school canteen.

During 1948, 42,730 free meals were supplied (27,892 in 1946 and 25,358 in 1947). The number of dinners supplied for which payment was made was 853,818 (644,220 in 1946 and 736,321 in 1947). These figures do not include meals supplied to pupils at the Open Air School or at the Nursery Schools.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The fullest co-operation between this Department and the Society with regard to cases of general neglect has continued to exist during the year. Eight cases were reported by us to the Society involving a total of 27 children. In only one of the cases did warning and advice fail to achieve the desired results. In this case legal proceedings were taken and the children were eventually committed to the care of the Local Authority. On the other hand, the Department was able to assist the Society in its investigation of nine cases of child neglect, concerning 26 children.

Co-operation with other Voluntary Bodies.

Our thanks are again due to the St. Anne's Convalescent Home and the Moorland Home for help given to children in need of a change of air and environment.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

The number of school children medically examined prior to registration as part-time workers was 177 during 1948.

Other Medical Examinations.

The School Medical Officers examined 144 persons mainly in connection with the Corporation Sickness Scheme and the requirements of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937.

Educationally Sub-normal Children.

The work of ascertainment of these children continues and the list of children in need of special educational facilities needs constant revision as more and more leave school and new ones come up to take their places. Unfortunately, we have still no local facilities for teaching such children.

It is hoped, however, that we shall be able in the next Annual Report to indicate that a start has been made in providing such facilities at High Birch. This large house has been acquired by the Local Authority for this purpose. There have been many and tedious delays in obtaining the necessary sanctions to plans, to adaptations and to expenditure, but it does, however, appear that it will be possible to make a beginning at High Birch during 1949 and to extend gradually the number and age range of the children who can be admitted and taught there.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The usual practice of visiting one half of the schools in the Spring and the other half in the Autumn was continued. In addition, the Saturday morning Clinic at Baillie Street remained open for School children as well as for their younger brothers and sisters.

During the year 494 children of school age received a full course of immunisation and 571 children previously immunised received a reinforcing injection.

Cost of Medical Inspection.

The cost of this Department from April 1st, 1947 to March 31st, 1948 was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	7,454	5	10
Printing, Stationery, Postage and Telephones	250	2	4
Drugs, Materials, Apparatus and Spectacles	1,255	0	11
Hospitals, Nursing Association	2,304	15	6
Travelling	89	5	7
Rent, Rates, Taxes and Insurance	484	3	7
Upkeep of Premises	85	18	5
Fuel, Light and Cleaning	216	4	4
Cleansing of Pupils	275	10	0
Conveyance of Children	65	3	3
Other Expenses	248	7	0
Child Guidance Clinic	243	19	8
	<hr/>		
	£12,972	16	5
	<hr/>		

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1948.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,348
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,301
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	729
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,378
Number of other Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,196
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,574

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	820
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,122
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,942

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants ...	54	102	143
Second Age Group ...	231	77	287
Third Age Group ...	102	63	150
Total (prescribed groups)	387	242	580
Other Periodic Inspections	134	84	200
Grand Total ...	521	326	780

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Defect Code No.	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS						No. of Defects			
	Defect or Disease						Requiring Treatment		Requiring Observation	
							1948	1947	1948	1947
4	Skin...	...	...	...	...	...	36	114	81	58
5	Eyes—a. Vision	...	...	...	...	...	502	119	153	134
	b. Squint	...	...	...	...	...	66	115	22	—
	c. Other	...	...	...	...	...	14	39	15	—
6	Ears—a. Hearing...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	15	13
	b. Otitis Media	...	...	...	...	...	25	29	12	2
	c. Other	...	...	...	...	...	3	12	—	3
7	Nose or Throat	...	...	...	...	...	74	273	400	906
8	Speech	...	...	...	...	...	15	24	56	60
9	Cervical Glands	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	54	242
10	Heart and Circulation	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	38	99
11	Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	51	84
12	Developmental—	...	...	...	...	...
	a. Hernia	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	14	—
	b. Other	...	...	...	...	...	6	—	46	63
13	Orthopaedic—	...	...	...	...	...
	a. Posture	...	...	...	...	...	26	15	122	141
	b. Flat foot	...	...	...	...	...	21	29	25	19
	c. Other	...	...	...	...	...	57	17	77	124
14	Nervous System—	...	...	...	...	...
	a. Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
	b. Other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	12
15	Psychological—	...	...	...	...	...
	a. Development	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	104	1
	b. Stability	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	9	—
16	Other	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	21	48

TABLE II.—(continued).

B.—Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the year in the Age groups (See note (b) on Table I).

Age Groups	Num- ber of Pupils In- spect- ed	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1348	58	4.30	1242	92.13	48	3.56
Second Age Group ...	1301	78	5.99	1184	91.00	39	2.99
Third Age Group ...	729	25	3.42	693	95.06	11	1.51
Other Periodic Inspections	1196	59	4.94	1098	91.80	39	3.26
Total ...	4574	220	4.81	4217	92.19	137	2.99

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.)

(a)							Number of Defects treated or under treatment during	
							1948	1947
Skin—								
Ringworm—Scalp— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(i) X-Ray treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(ii) Other treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	63
Ringworm—Body— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	14
Scabies ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	296
Impetigo ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	252
Other skin diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	433
Eye Disease (excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	172	420
Ear Defects (excluding serious diseases of the ear) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	296	539
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, sores, chilblains, etc.) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,082	2,541
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,746	4,558

(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinic 4,100 12,278

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint. (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

	No. of defects dealt with
Errors of Refraction (including squint), (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report)	556
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	11
Total	<u>567</u>

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were :—

(a) Prescribed	538
(b) Obtained	All of 262 pairs prescribed before 5.7.48 were obtained (number obtained since unknown)

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

	Total number treated
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	264
(b) for other nose and throat conditions	2
Received other forms of treatment	197
Total	<u>463</u>

GROUP IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural defects.

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools... ..	33
(b) No. treated otherwise e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments	102

GROUP V.—Child Guidance Treatment and Speech Therapy.

No. of pupils treated (a) under Child Guidance arrangements	—
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements	—

TABLE IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—							
(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	8010
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	1169
(c) TOTAL (Periodic and Specials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9179
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	4645
(3) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3425
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	4666
(5) Half-days devoted to : (a) Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
(b) Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	901
Total (a) and (b)							978
(6) Fillings—Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	3628
Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	448
Total							4076
(7) Extractions—Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	2505
Total							2678
(8) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	...	...	237
(9) Other operations : (a) Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	1185
(b) Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	723
Total (a) and (b)							1608

TABLE V.—Infestation with Vermin.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by school nurses or other authorized persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	16979
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	...	1795
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1795
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	74

